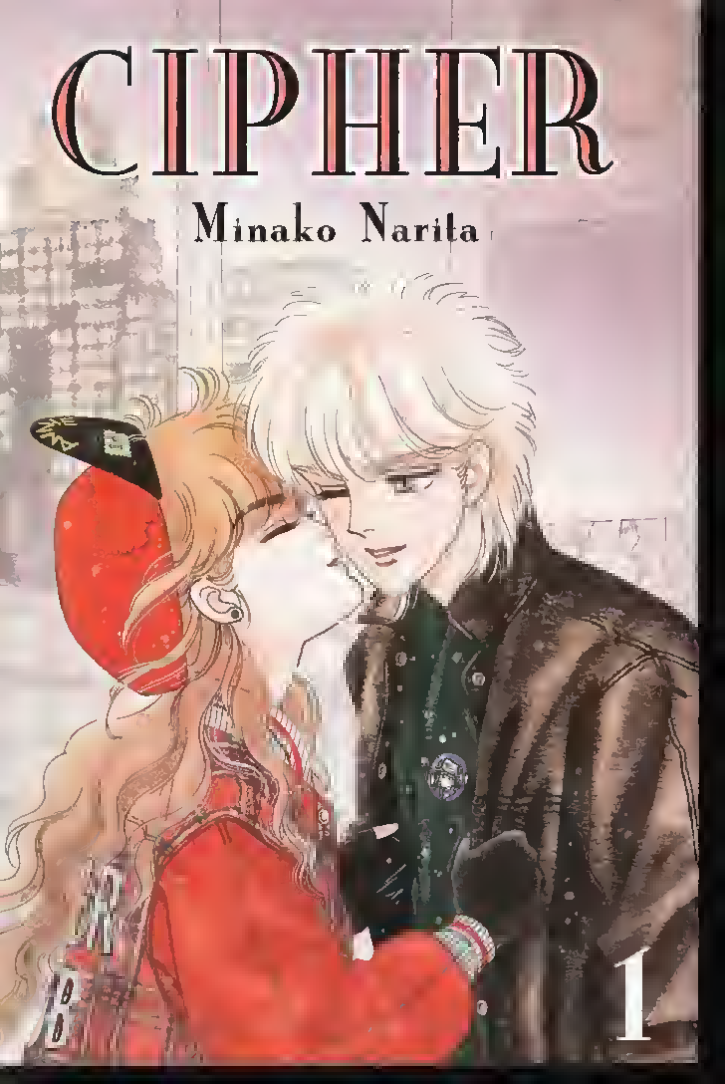
CIPHER

Minako Narita



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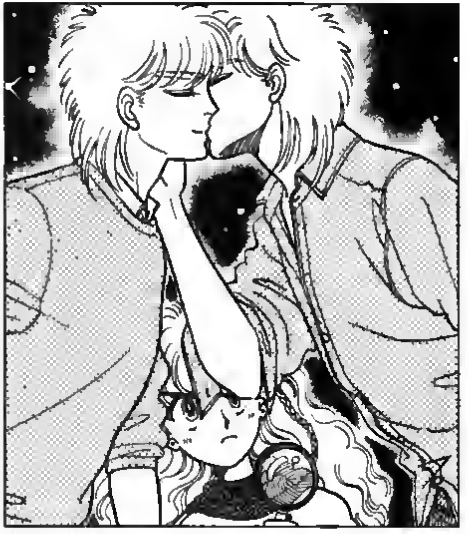
CIPHER

Vol. 1



by Minako Narita

CIPHER

"SIN LIES AT THE DOOR AND UNTO YOU SHALL BE HIS DESIRE, AND YOU SHALL RULE OVER HIM."
"BUT CAIN ROSE AND KILLED HIS BROTHER ABEL"
"MY PUNISHMENT IS GREATER THAN I CAN BEAR. EVERYONE THAT FINDS ME SHALL SLAY ME."
"AND THE LORD SAID UNTO HIM, WHOEVER SLAYS CAIN, VENGEANCE SHALL BE TAKEN ON HIM SEVENFOLD. AND THE LORD SET A MARK UPON CAIN, LEST ANY FINDING HIM SHOULD KILL HIM."
"THEREFORE WHOEVER SLAYS CAIN,
CAIN WANDERED THE EARTH, A VAGABOND.

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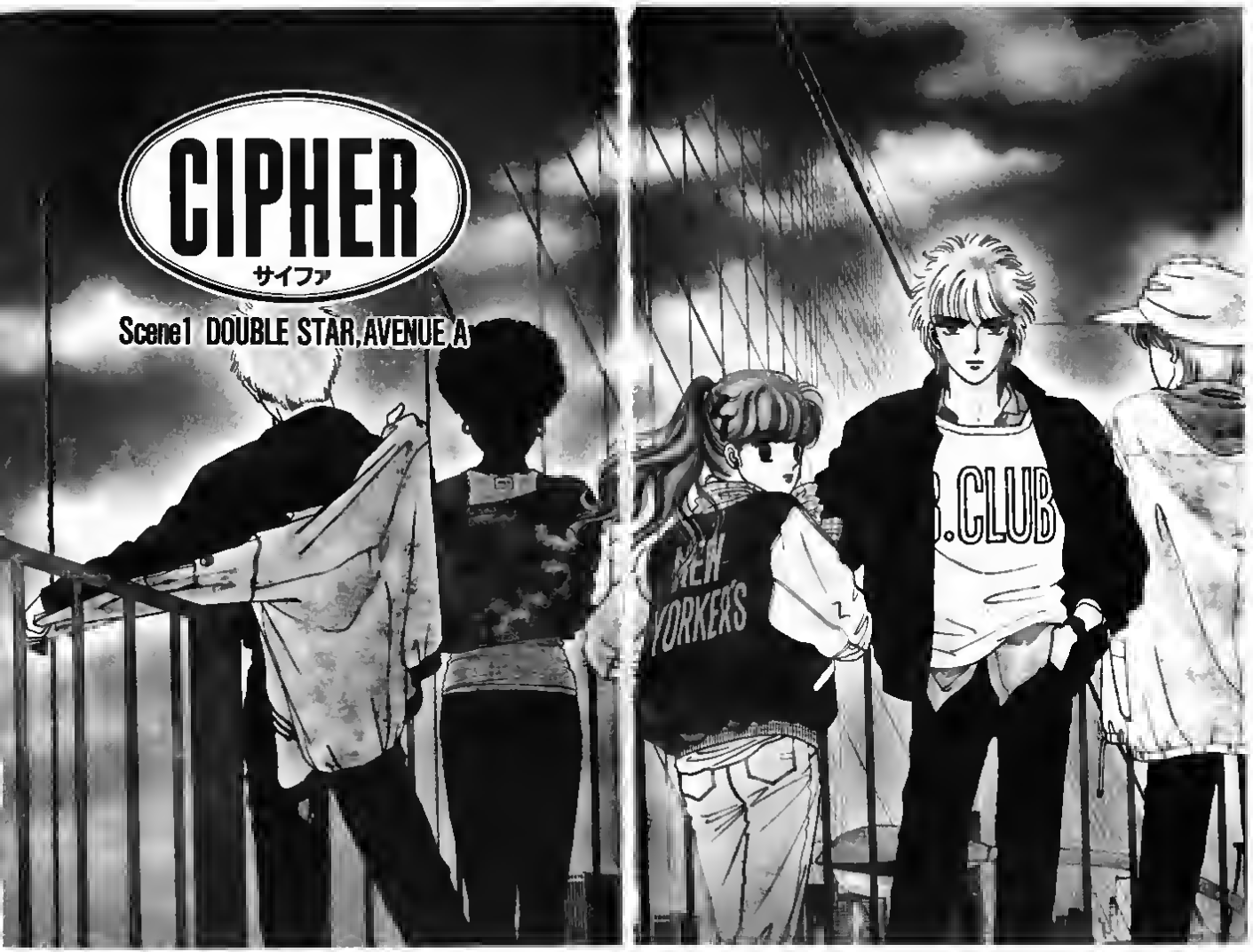
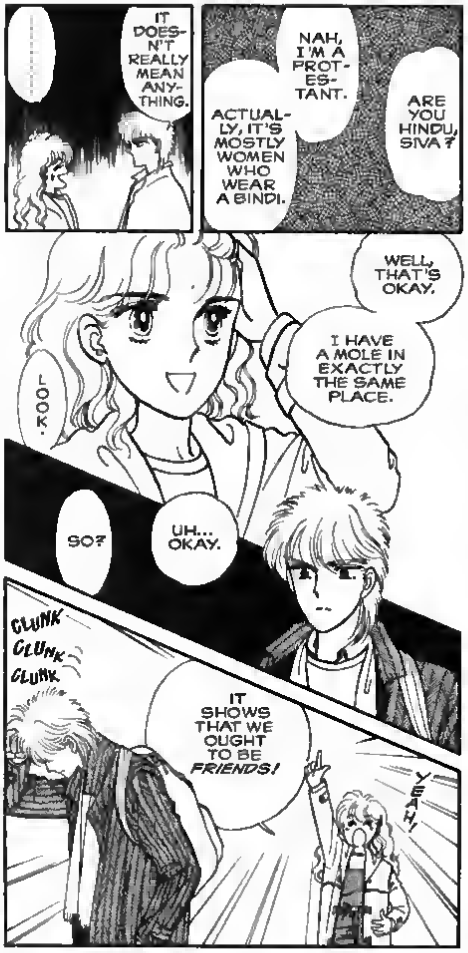

CIPHER
サイファ
Scene1 DOUBLE STAR, AVENUE A
NEW YORKER'S
.CLUB

I-I JUST--
I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND!
UH...
GRAB
HUH?
DO I KNOW THIS GIRL?
MORN-
-ING!
AH. SO WE HAVEN'T MET.
HELLO SIVA HOW DO YOU DO?
MY NAME IS ANISE MURPHY
?
AAH.
...IT'S A SIGN FOR ME TO GO FOR IT.
THAT DREAM I HAD...
I'M DEFINITELY GONNA TALK TO HIM TODAY!
LET'S SEE.
I KNOW WHERE HIS LOCKER IS
THERE HE IS!

HELLO! IT'S ME NARITA. THERE ARE NOW ENOUGH EPISODES TO MAKE A COMIC BOOK. IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I DID MY LAST COMIC.

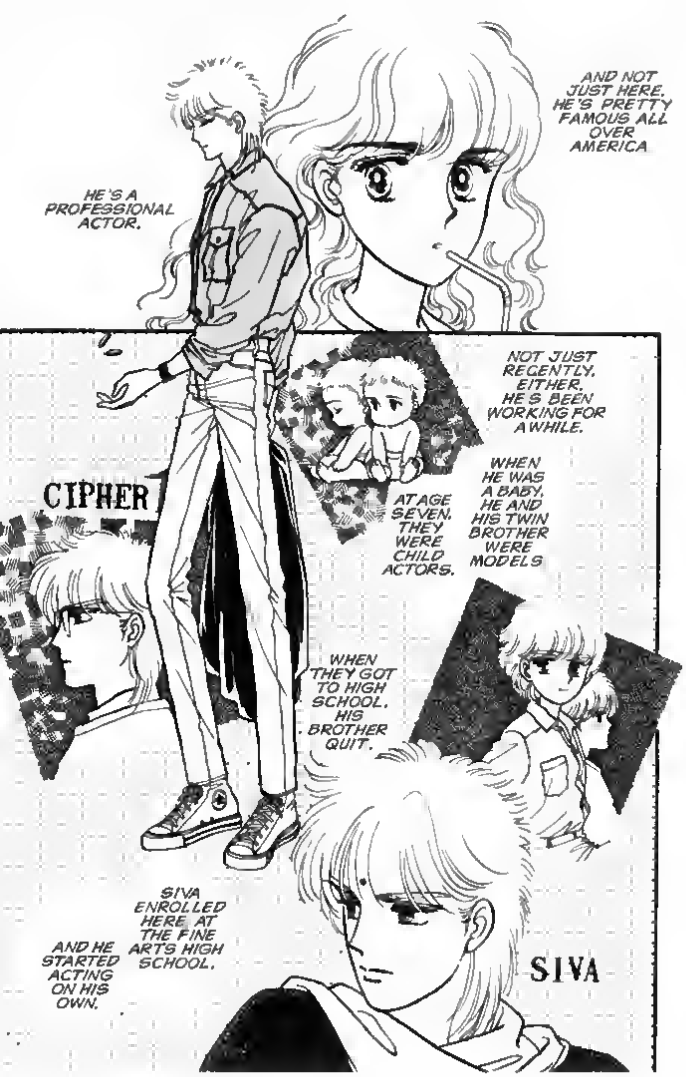
SO, THIS TIME AROUND, I AM GOING TO MAKE A CHANGE TO MY USUAL WAY OF DOING THINGS AND USE THIS SECTION TO HAVE THE TWINS ACT OUT THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS STORY

YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW THEM BY THEIR PERSONALITIES BUT CIPHER IS ON THE LEFT AND SIVA IS ON THE RIGHT. OTHER CHARACTERS WILL APPEAR IN THEIR REGULAR SIZE. ONLY THE TWINS WILL APPEAR AS LITTLE KIDS. FIND THE SCENES, COMPARE AND ENJOY. LET'S START!

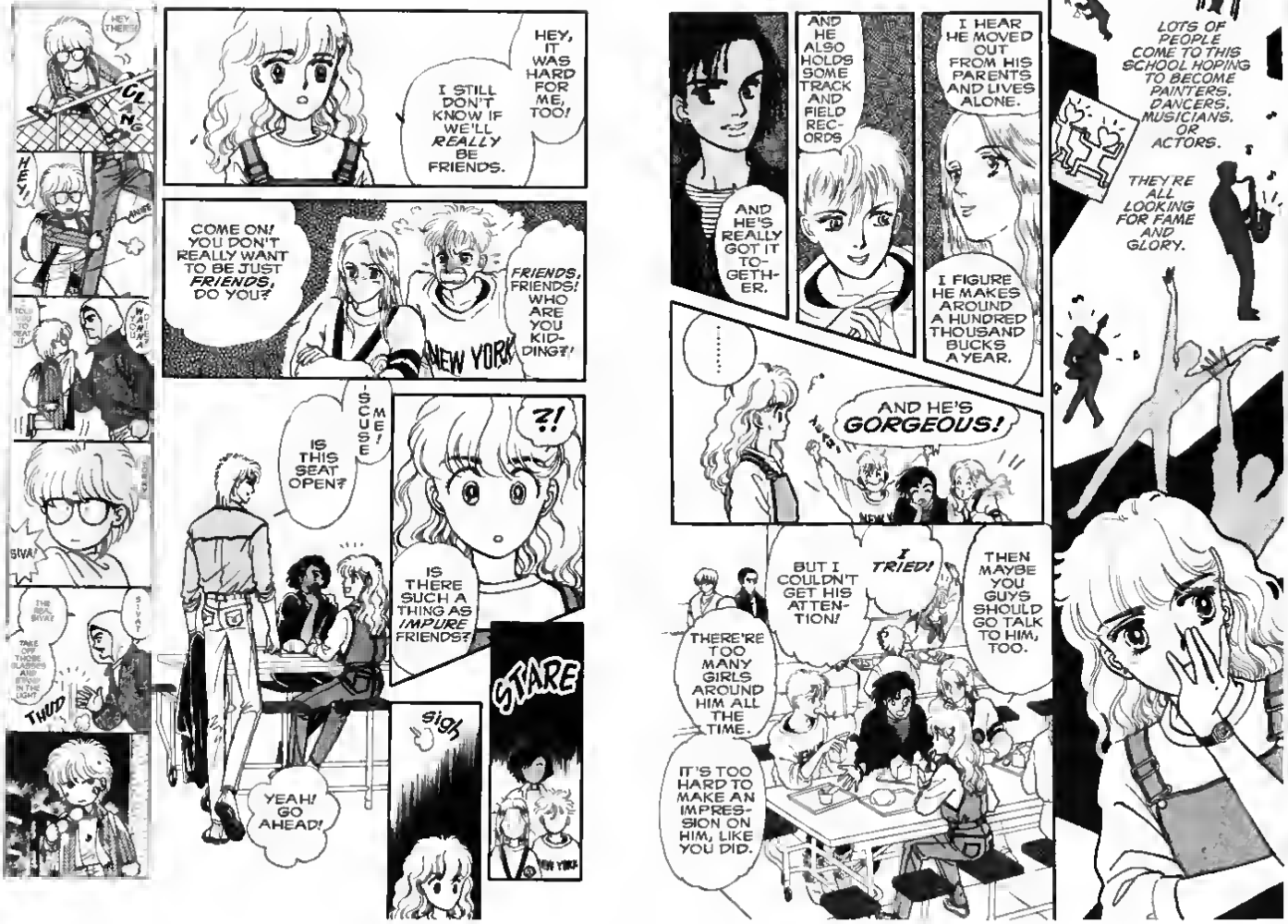

IT DOESN'T REALLY MEAN ANYTHING.
NAH, I'M A PROTESTANT.
ACTUALLY, IT'S MOSTLY WOMEN WHO WEAR A BINDI.
ARE YOU HINDU, SIVA?
WELL, THAT'S OKAY.
I HAVE A MOLE IN EXACTLY THE SAME PLACE.
LOOK.
SO?
UH... OKAY.
CLUNK CLUNK CLUNK.
IT SHOWS THAT WE OUGHT TO BE FRIENDS!
YEAH!

YAHOO!
THAT'D BE GREAT!
THANK YOU!
SOOKY
murmur
murmur
HUH?
SIVA SAID YES?
YOU REALLY WENT UP AND TALKED TO HIM?

I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND GIRLS
ANYWAY,
WE CAN JUST BE FRIENDS, I GUESS
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "JUST FRIENDS?"
FRIENDSHIP IS THE HIGHEST FORM OF RESPECT THERE IS FOR PEOPLE!
OH.
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT MAY BE, BUT WE'VE ONLY JUST MET.
Smile
WELL, WE CAN HANG OUT IF YOU WANT.
OKAY?


AND NOT JUST HERE. HE'S PRETTY FAMOUS ALL OVER AMERICA
HE'S A PROFESSIONAL ACTOR.
NOT JUST RECENTLY, EITHER. HE'S BEEN WORKING FOR AWHILE.
CIPHER
WHEN HE WAS A BABY, HE AND HIS TWIN BROTHER WERE MODELS
AT AGE SEVEN, THEY WERE CHILD ACTORS.
WHEN THEY GOT TO HIGH SCHOOL, HIS BROTHER QUIT.
SIVA ENROLLED HERE AT THE FINE ART'S HIGH SCHOOL.
AND HE STARTED ACTING ON HIS OWN.
SIVA

WOW, ANISE. YOU REALLY DID IT!
I DIDN'T THINK SIVA WOULD GO FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
NEW YOR
WHAM!
AARGH!
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THE STRAIGHT APPROACH WAS THE BEST WAY!
LOOK.
THERE HE IS NOW!
IT'S SO COOL TO BE ETHNIC THESE DAYS.
HE'S GOT REAL TAL-ENT, TOO. BUT HE CAN STILL GET WORK WITHOUT THAT.
I CAN'T TELL FROM HIS FACE WHAT HIS BACK-GROUND IS.
MAY-BE PART ASIAN.
HE REALLY STANDS OUT, DOESN'T HE?
HE'S SO TALL.
AND HE'S ONLY SEVEN-TEEN, SO I BET HE KEEPS GROW-ING.
SIVA'S FAMOUS IN THIS SCHOOL.


HEY, THERE!
CLANG
HEY,
AHEM
TOLD YOU TO QUIT TRYING TO BEAT IT.
WANNA?
SIVA!
THE REAL SIVA?
TAKE OFF THOSE GLASSES AND STAND IN THE LIGHT.
SIVA!
THUD
HEY, IT WAS HARD FOR ME, TOO!
I STILL DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL REALLY BE FRIENDS.
COME ON! YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO BE JUST FRIENDS, DO YOU?
FRIENDS, FRIENDS! WHO ARE YOU KIDDING?!
NEW YORK
EXCUSE ME! IS THIS SEAT OPEN?
?!
IS THERE SUCH A THING AS IMPURE FRIENDS?
YEAH! GO AHEAD!
sigh
STARE
NEW YORK
AND HE'S REALLY GOT IT TOGETHER.
AND HE ALSO HOLDS SOME TRACK AND FIELD RECORDS
I HEAR HE MOVED OUT FROM HIS PARENTS AND LIVES ALONE.
I FIGURE HE MAKES AROUND A HUNDRED THOUSAND BUCKS A YEAR.
.....
AND HE'S GORGEOUS!
NEW YORK
THERE'RE TOO MANY GIRLS AROUND HIM ALL THE TIME.
BUT I COULDN'T GET HIS ATTENTION!
I TRIED!
THEN MAYBE YOU GUYS SHOULD GO TALK TO HIM, TOO.
IT'S TOO HARD TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON HIM, LIKE YOU DID.
LOTS OF PEOPLE COME TO THIS SCHOOL HOPING TO BECOME PAINTERS, DANCERS, MUSICIANS, OR ACTORS.
THEY'RE ALL LOOKING FOR FAME AND GLORY.

DING DONG
I'LL SEE YOU IN THE LOBBY.
OKAY!
WELL?
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
ONCE I MANAGED TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, HIS WHOLE MOOD CHANGED. HE LET ME OFF THE HOOK.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU KNEW THE COACH'S CHILD'S BIRTHDAY.
I SAID, "YOUR KID'S FIRST BIRTHDAY WAS YESTERDAY, WASN'T IT?"
O'NEAL'S BAKERY

YES, SIR?
WHERE'S THAT BOY, SIVA?
SIVA!
ARE THESE YOUR CLOTHES?
WHAT DO SAY WE MEET UP AFTER SCHOOL AND WALK HOME?
WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU, SIVA.
SLAM!
SURE.
YOU IDIOT!
THANKS, BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BRING THEM UP HERE TO ME.
OH, HAVE THEY FINISHED DRYING?
BUT I DON'T HAVE A LAUNDRY MACHINE AT HOME.
COME ON!
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS IN MY OFFICE.
DUM!
...ARE FOR SPORTS UNIFORMS AND TOWELS ONLY!
THE LAUNDRY MACHINES IN THE LOCKER ROOM...

HELP!
PLEASE, HELP ME!
SEE?
SORTA LIKE THAT.
!!
GASHAK
THIS MAN'S GONNA KILL ME!
HELP!
WOW!
HUH?
YOU CAN'T JUST WALK AWAY!
SIVA!
THAT'S TOO BAD, LADY.

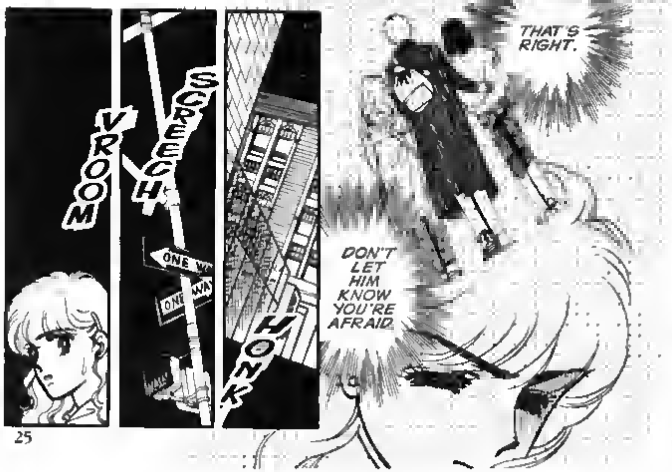
HAHAHA
I SEE.
THE KID WAS BORN ON THE DAY AFTER ST PATRICK'S DAY. IT'S EASY TO REMEMBER.
HE WAS MY HOMEROOM TEACHER LAST YEAR
AVENUE A?!
NEAR AVENUE A.
EAST TENTH.
WHERE DO YOU LIVE, SIVA? WHAT SUBWAY STOP?
?
WELL, THEY DO SELL MARIJUANA ACROSS THE STREET ALL THE TIME.
AND YOU HEAR GUNSHOTS AND SCREAMS SOMETIMES.
THAT'S A TERRIBLE NEIGHBORHOOD! ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?!
IT'S A MELTING POT.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE CAREFUL AT NIGHT, IT'S NOT SO BAD.
YAGAH!
gasp

AH-EEE!
STOP, YOU IDIOT!
ANISE!
HEY, YOU!
tch!
LEAVE HER ALONE!
GO AWAY, KID!
CLANG
HELP! HELP!
YAAAH
SHUT YER STINKIN' HOLE, LADY!
LET'S GO.
FORGET IT.
DID YOU GET A LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT GUY?
BETTER NOT MESS WITH HIM IF YOU WANT TO LIVE. THIS IS NEW YORK.
AT LEAST WE CAN CALL THE POLICE!
THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME AROUND HERE.
IF NOBODY'S BEEN KILLED, THE COPS WON'T COME.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
YOU COW-ARD!

NOT REALLY.
SIVA!
.....?
?
THE REAL SIVA?
YES.
YES.
SIVA?
THE ACTOR?

HEY! CALM DOWN
WHAT?!
AHH...
?!
THAT'S A LIE! I DON'T KNOW THIS MAN!
HELP!
THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND MY WOMAN. AIN'T NONE O' YOUR BUSINESS.
DON'T STICK YOUR NOSE IN!
YOU WANNA DIE?
I TOLD YOU TO KEEP OUTTA THIS!
OH, JUST LEAVE HER ALONE.
SHE SAID, "STOP," DIDN'T SHE?
SNATCH

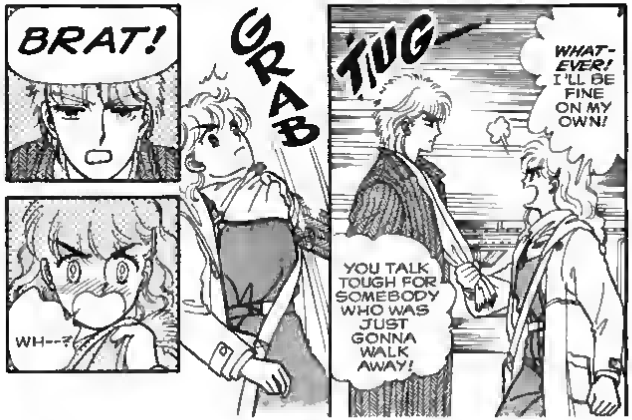
LET'S GO, ANISE.
...AND YOU LOSE!
SHOW ANY WEAKNESS... DON'T LOOK BACK.


VROOM
SCREECH
ONE WAY
ONE WAY
HONK
THAT'S RIGHT.
DON'T LET HIM KNOW YOU'RE AFRAID.

TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES AND FACE THE LIGHT.
CAN YOU WALK? COME ON.
YEAH.

WHAT THE HECK--?
A SPOILED KID LIKE YOU SHOULD GO HOME AND HAVE MOMMY TUCK YOU IN.
GRAB
WHAT A TOTAL JERK!

LOOKS LIKE HE DIDN'T FOLLOW US.
A SHORT WALK FROM CANAL STREET.
AND YOU, ANISE?
I CHANGE TO THE E TRAIN FOR HILLSIDE.
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
THAT'S
...THE OTHER WAY. THAT COULD BE DANGER-OUS.


BRAT!
GRAB
TUG
WHAT-EVER! I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN!
WH--?
YOU TALK TOUGH FOR SOMEBODY WHO WAS JUST GONNA WALK AWAY!

Sniff
IT MUST BE HARD TO BE A COLUMNIST.
I KNOW IT'S HARD.
IT'S OKAY.
GLOOM
BULL'S EYE.
ROB...
...ARE YOU AVOIDING WORK AGAIN?
NO.
ANISE! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING GETTING INTO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
DID YOU GET HURT?
WHAT?!
HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
WELL I RAN INTO TROUBLE

大漁
HI, HONEY!
I MISSED YOU!
I'M HOME
SLAM!
OH
HUG
I LOVE YOU ANISE!
OH DADDY! IT'S BEEN OVER TEN HOURS
DON'T WORRY I JUST GOT IN THE MOOD
BUT IT WAS MY TURN TO MAKE DINNER.
WE'RE HAVING SPAGHETTI BOLOGNAISE.
GET READY FOR DINNER.
DA DE DUM!
hm hm hmm...
大漁

SHE NEVER BACKS DOWN AN INCH.
SHE'S HARD-HEADED.
BUT MAYBE IN A FEW YEARS...
..SHE'LL MATURE INTO A FINE YOUNG WOMAN
OH!
THAT'S WHERE SIVA...
DID HE GET BLOODIED IN THE FIGHT?
NO!
WHEN DID HE GET HURT?
AT ANY RATE, HE HELPED YOU OUT.
YOU SHOULD TELL SIVA YOU'RE GRATE-FUL.

CLATTER
YOU SHOULD-N'T GET INVOLVED IN STUFF LIKE THAT.
DON'T YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE?
WELL, OF COURSE NOT.
BUT WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YOU SHOULD CALL THE C.F.B.W.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE SIVA'S SIDE?!
I CAN'T JUST WALK AWAY AND PRETEND I DON'T SEE!
HUH?
WHERE?
..IS THAT BLOOD?
ANISE...
IT IS BLOOD!
WHAT'S THAT?
CENTER FOR BAT-TERED..
OH MY GOD!

HEY!
MORN-ING, ANISE!
MORN-ING!
HOPE YOU'RE NOT WAITING FOR SIVA.
HE'S NOT COM-ING TODAY.
WHY NOT?!
IS HE HURT?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HE'S BEEN SKIPPING WEDNES-DAY'S LATELY.
HE FILMS A T.V. SERIES THAT DAY.
HE HAS WORK?
WITH HIS HAND HURT?

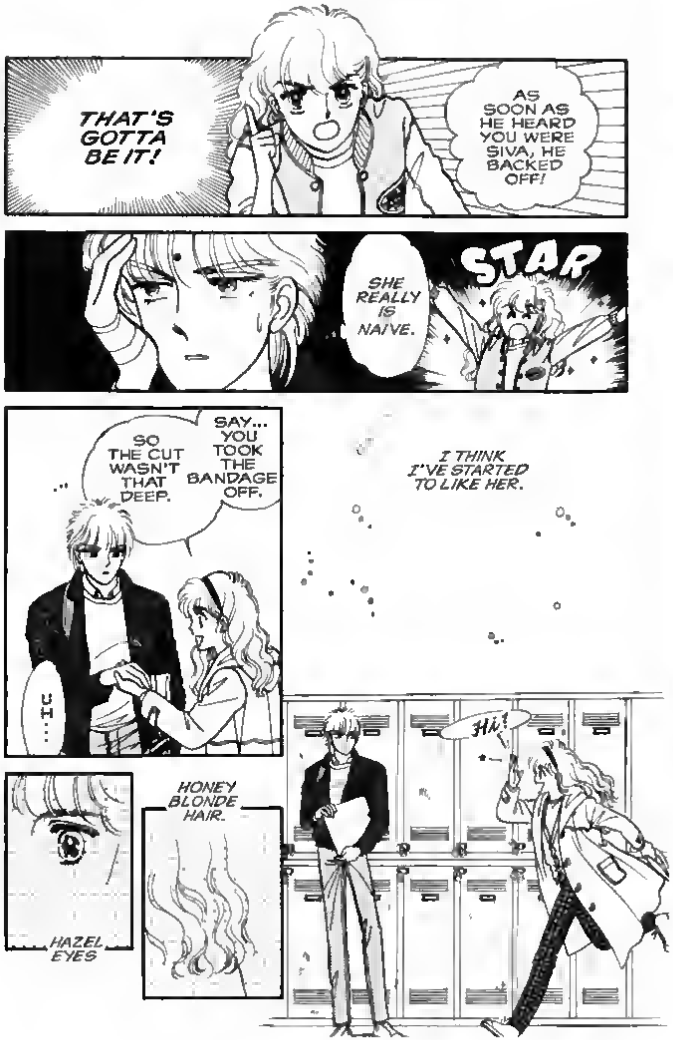
hm!

PIZZA
HEY, CAN WE MEET AFTER SCHOOL?
YOU CUT IT ON THE FENCE?
YUP.
WILL IT INTERFERE WITH YOUR WORK?
NO, IT'S NOT THAT BAD.
WELL... THANK YOU.
FOR HELPING OUT.

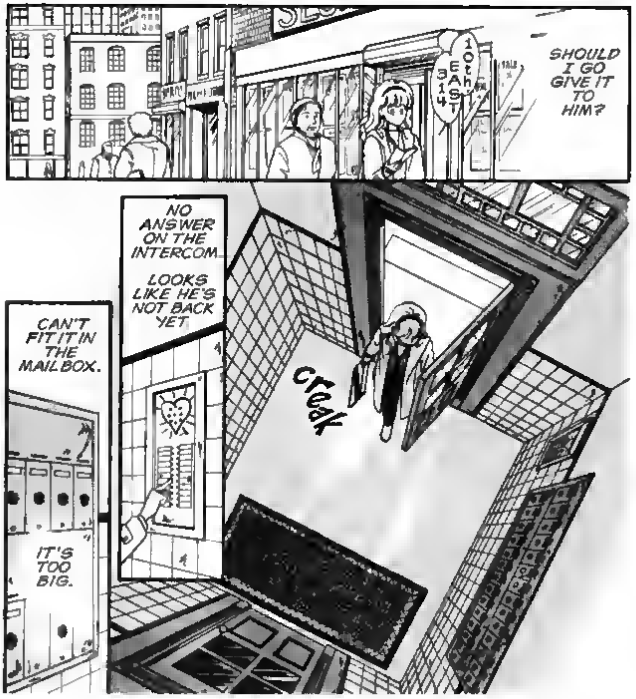
JUST LISTEN!
WHAT? YOU STILL...
BUT I WON'T APOLOGIZE.
I STILL DON'T THINK I WAS WRONG.
NEITHER WAS I.
I STILL THINK WE SHOULD HAVE STAYED OUT OF IT.
WHEN THESE THINGS HAPPEN, IT'S USUALLY THE PERSON'S OWN FAULT
THEY LEFT THEMSELVES OPEN TO IT.
YOU JUMP INTO STRANGERS' BUSINESS LIKE THAT, AND NOTHING GOOD'LL COME OF IT.
HE'S GOT A POINT.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT A STRANGER.
BUT IN THE END, YOU DID HELP OUT.

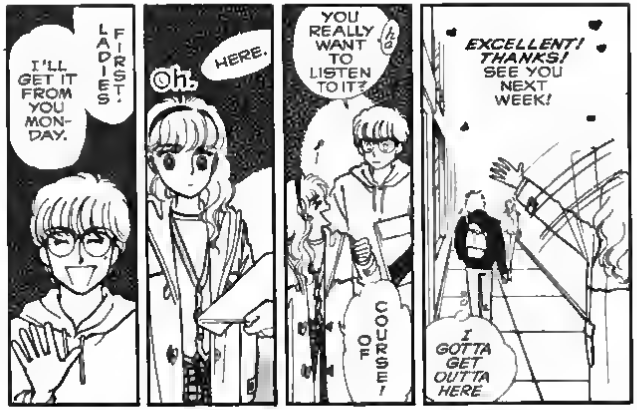
WHY AM I HAPPY?
WHY IS THAT?
MAYBE WHAT HE MEANS IS...
WHEN HE'S ALLOWED SOMEONE TO BE HIS FRIEND, HE'D DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT THEM
IF I RAN ACROSS SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN...
...I'D PROBABLY STILL JUMP IN.
HUH?
SUIT YOURSELF.
I'D STILL TRY AND STOP YOU.
SOMEHOW, THAT MAKES ME HAPPY
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
YOU'RE... UH... KINDA WEIRD.
SMILE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HE MUST HAVE BEEN A REAL FAN OF YOURS.
AND THAT GUY.
EVEN IF IT'S THE TOTAL OPPOSITE FROM ME, I STILL LOVE IT!
I LOVE IT THAT YOU CAN JUST SAY WHAT YOU REALLY THINK!

CLUMP
Smile
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, OKAY?
I'M GOING SHOPPING, AND THEN TO WORK.
YEAH? WHAT IS IT?
SAY, ANISE.
FORGOT SOMETHING, DIDN'T YOU? LEAVING WITHOUT GIVING IT TO ME?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SURE.
GRAB IT FROM HIM WHEN HE'S DONE WITH IT.
HALL AND OATES?
CAN I BORROW IT NEXT?
OKAY.
DON'T SCRATCH IT.
ME & ANISE


THAT'S GOTTA BE IT!
AS SOON AS HE HEARD YOU WERE SIVA, HE BACKED OFF!
SHE REALLY IS NAIVE.
STAR
SAY... YOU TOOK THE BANDAGE OFF.
SO THE CUT WASN'T THAT DEEP.
UH...
I THINK I'VE STARTED TO LIKE HER.
HAZEL EYES
HONEY BLONDE HAIR.
HI!

"I'M GOING SHOPPING, AND THEN TO WORK."
A POCKET DIARY.
AND CASH.
UH-OH.


SHOULD I GO GIVE IT TO HIM?
NO ANSWER ON THE INTERCOM.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT BACK YET
CAN'T FIT IT IN THE MAIL BOX.
IT'S TOO BIG.
creak

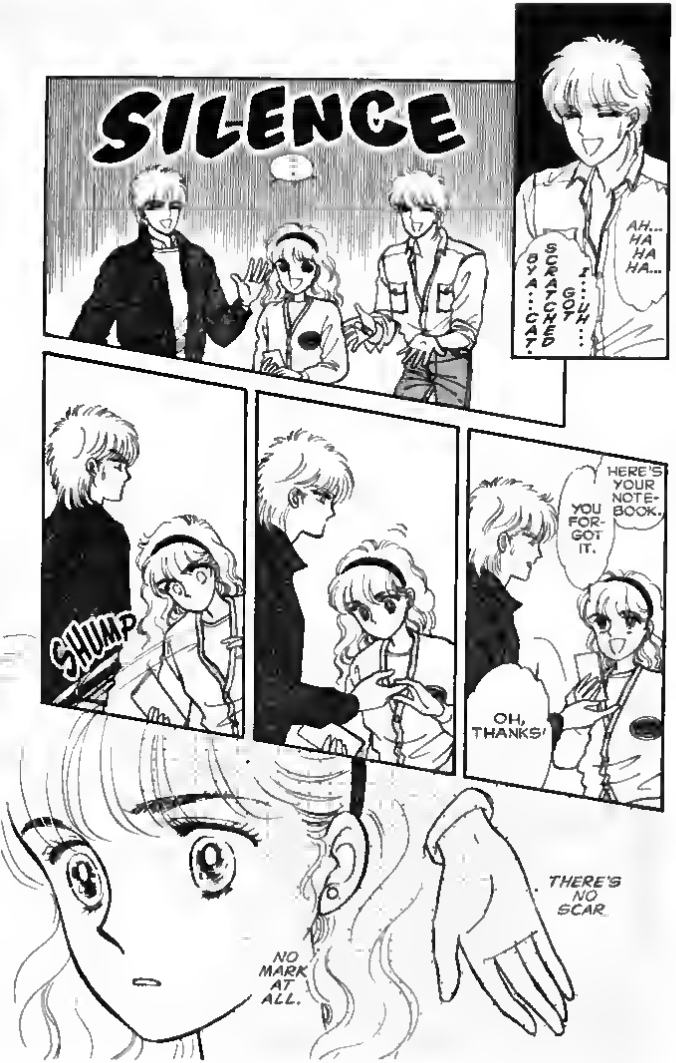

LADIES FIRST!
I'LL GET IT FROM YOU MONDAY.
Oh.
HERE.
YOU REALLY WANT TO LISTEN TO IT?
OF COURSE!
EXCELLENT! THANKS! SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!
I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE

I'm so lucky!

HUH?
YES!
THIS IS SO COOL! I WANTED TO HEAR THIS!

Hmm..
KACHAK
RATTLE RATTLE
CLOP CLOP CLOP
AH, SOUNDS LIKE HE'S BACK ALREADY.
OH... IT'S HIM.
GO ON--TAKE A LOOK.
HEY!
WA...
WAAAH!!!
AH... AHHH...
HEY! WHAT'S WITH ALL THE NOISE?

YES, JUST ACROSS FROM ME.
DOES A GUY NAMED SIVA LIVE HERE?
KACHAK
GLOOM
EXCUSE ME!
I'M A FRIEND OF HIS. HE FORGOT SOMETHING.
WELL, THAT'S A PROBLEM, ISN'T IT?
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT HOME YET.
SO, I... UH...
COME.
YOU CAN WAIT IN MY APARTMENT.
THANK YOU.
CLOP CLOP CLOP


SILENCE
AH... HA HA HA...
I...UH... GOT SCRATCHED BY A...CAT.
SHUMP
HERE'S YOUR NOTE-BOOK.
YOU FORGOT IT.
OH, THANKS!
THERE'S NO SCAR.
NO MARK AT ALL.

KACHAK
Huh?
JOLT
HE JUST HAPPENED TO DROP FOR A VISIT!
NICE TO MEET YOU.
UH, YEAH. THIS IS MY BROTHER, CIPHER.
AND, WOW! YOU REALLY DO LOOK ALIKE.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE TWINS!

DAY?
THE ONE WITH THE CUT WAS THERE AT LEAST TWO DAYS.
I HAD TO ASK CIPHER TO COVER FOR ME AT SCHOOL--JUST FOR TODAY
ANISE...
IT'S A LITTLE COMPLI-CATED, BUT...
THAT'S RIGHT.
UH, YEAH..
THAT'S 'CAUSE I WAS HURT, SO, SIVA WENT TO SCHOOL FOR ME TODAY.
REGARDLESS,
YEAH.
IT'S NO GOOD.
COMPLETELY SUS-PI-CIOUS
BET-TER JUST TELL HER.
.....

WHAT?
HUH?
MONDAY
MEANS... THAT
..THE ONE I MET BEFORE IS ON THE LEFT. THE ONE WHO HELPED ME TUESDAY IS ON THE RIGHT.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
.....
BUSTED.

TODAY, IT'S MY TURN TO BE "SIVA."
AND MY TURN TO HIDE HOME
THE OTHER ONE HIDES AT HOME.
DOESN'T GO OUT, DOESN'T ANSWER THE PHONE... NOTHING.
ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT JUST SCHOOL
WORK OR WHATEVER..WE SWITCH EVERY DAY.
WHEN WE HAVE A MOVIE JOB, ONE OF US GETS TO CONTINUE FOR A FEW DAYS.
GRIN
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD KEEP IT UP FOR TWO YEARS!
LIARS!

IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SUSPECTED.
FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS...
...WE'VE TAKEN TURNS GOING TO SCHOOL EVERY OTHER DAY AS "SIVA."
TWO YEARS?!

YOU YOURSELF SAID THAT "FRIENDSHIP IS THE HIGHEST FORM OF RESPECT THERE IS."
BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY TRUE, IS IT?
NO!
NO, NO, NO!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
YOU JUST WON'T LET PEOPLE GET CLOSE TO YOU, SO THEY DON'T FIND OUT YOUR SECRET!

WELL, MAKE UP YOUR MIND.
OKAY, FINE! YOU'VE BEEN SWITCHING EVERY DAY!
Just kidding
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE IT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
AND, REALLY, WE ONLY SWITCHED FOR TODAY.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT, EITHER!
HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?! YOU'VE BEEN LYING TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS!
WHAT ABOUT US?
UNTIL TODAY, NOBODY FIGURED IT OUT.
SEEMS THEY DON'T PAY TOO US MUCH ATTENTION TO US, DO THEY?
I NOTICED!
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? NOBODY NOTICED.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D BE SO INSULTING TO EVERYBODY!

THEN LET'S GIVE IT A TRY FOR TWO WEEKS.
IF YOU CAN TELL US APART AFTER THAT, YOU WIN.
THEN WE'LL TELL YOU THE REASON WE DO THIS AND YOU CAN TELL ANYBODY YOU WANT.
HMM...
AND IF I CAN'T TELL YOU APART, THEN WHAT?
THEN YOU CAN NEVER TELL ANYONE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
AND YOU'LL NEVER ASK WHY AGAIN.

WHY ARE YOU EVEN DOING THIS? TELL ME!
I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP YOU.
WAIT, ANISE! LET'S MAKE A DEAL!
WE'LL MAKE A BET.
OR MAYBE I'LL JUST GO TELL EVERYBODY
AH... STOP!
YOU JUST SAID IT WASN'T NECESSARY FOR THE TWO OF US TO PRETEND LIKE WE'RE ONE PERSON
THAT WE JUST DON'T LET PEOPLE GET CLOSE TO US.
YOU THINK IF YOU DID GET CLOSE YOU'D BE ABLE TO TELL US APART.
RIGHT?
WELL... YES.
HUH?

THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME DIFFERENCE.
EVEN IF THEY ARE TWINS THEY'RE STILL DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
murmur
WHICH ONE OF YOU GOT CUT, ANYWAY?
CIPHER
IT WAS SIVA WHO LENT OUT THE RECORD.
DO YOU THINK THAT CUT WILL HEAL UP IN TWO WEEKS?
MAYBE.
I'LL TRY TO FIND IT.
THERE MUST BE SOME HABIT ONLY ONE OF YOU HAS, OR EVEN A MOLE.
THEN...
...WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

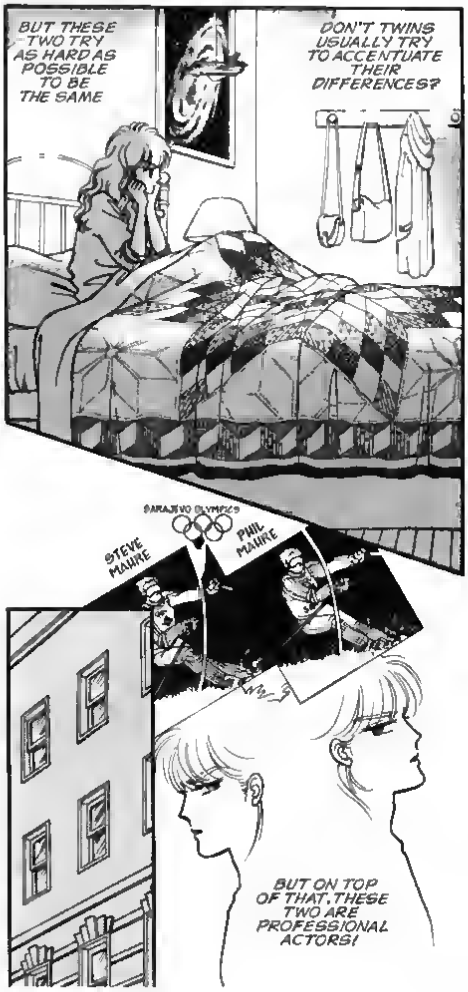
Ding Dong
IT'S GOT TO BE POSSIBLE TO TELL THEM APART.
IT'S A BET.
OKAY

UH...
WINE?
SH
UP
OMP
HOW IS IT?
UMM...

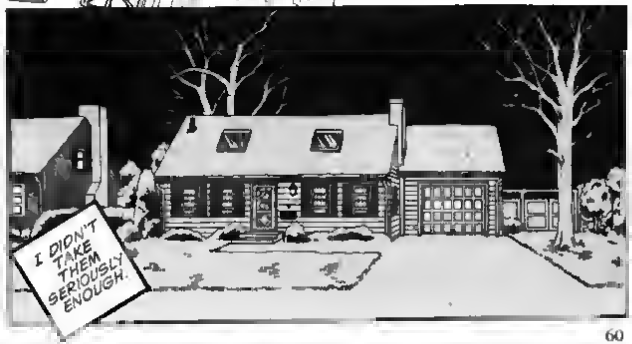
EVEN WHEN THEY'RE TOGETHER, I CAN'T TELL THEM APART
CIPHER
SLAM
AT SCHOOL, I ONLY SEE ONE OF THEM. I STILL CAN'T TELL.
GOOD EVE-NING!
WELCOME HOME.
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRESS ALIKE.
HOW ABOUT SOME GERMAN WINE?
GREAT!
PLUNK
WE'RE MOSTLY INTO NATURAL FOODS, AND FISH.
OKAY?
LOVE IT!
I'LL MAKE SOME DIN-NER.
GOT ANY LIKES OR DIS-LIKES?
GREAT! THANKS! I'M FINE WITH WHAT-EVER.

MATCHING CLOTHES, WINE WHISPERING TO EACH OTHER AND THEY LOOK AT ME LIKE THEY HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD.
BLEEH
NOT ON YOUR LIFE!
SO YOU GIVE UP?
IF THEY HAVE THE SAME PEDIGREE, THEY LOOK THE SAME. YOU CAN'T TELL THEM APART.
SIVA
UM...
WHICH ONE ARE YOU?
SIVA ON THE RIGHT.
AND CIPHER'S THE ONE WITH HIS SLEEVES ROLLED UP.
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE TOTALLY MESSING WITH MY MIND.

WELL?
FEEL LIKE YOU CAN TELL YET?
HICCUP
YOU'RE LIKE TWO PEDIGREED CATS ROLLING AROUND TOGETHER.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

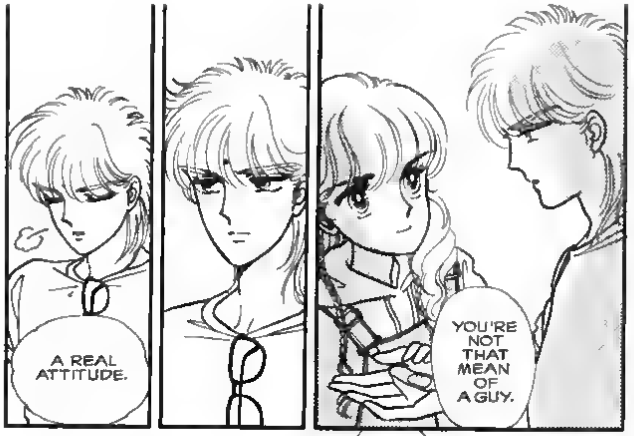

BUT THESE TWO TRY AS HARD AS POSSIBLE TO BE THE SAME
DON'T TWINS USUALLY TRY TO ACCENTUATE THEIR DIFFERENCES?
SARAJEVO OLYMPICS
STEVE MAHRE
PHIL MAHRE
BUT ON TOP OF THAT, THESE TWO ARE PROFESSIONAL ACTORS!

ALREADY LOST TRACK OF THEM.
THERE, ALL DONE!
HERE, ANISE, WIPE THE TABLE.
OKAY
GET IT CLEAN.
WIPE WIPE


I DIDN'T TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY ENOUGH.

DUM
BST
RUCK
.....
?!
THAT'S A PRETTY BRASH REQUEST, DON'T YOU THINK?
MOVE IN...IN THIS SMALL APARTMENT?!
WELL, I'M NOT GAY EITHER. I DO LIKE POP MUSIC, THOUGH.
WE'RE NOT GAY, YOU KNOW.
Meat-ly
BRASH?
WHY? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
NO!
WE LIKE POP MUSIC, TOO. BUT...
THEN I'LL BRING OVER MY POP MUSIC DOLL!
I GOT IT FOR CHRIST-MAS.
REALLY?!

?
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME!
THE WAY TO TELL THEM APART WITHOUT RELYING ON LOOKS IS...
...ALL RIGHT, LET'S START ALL OVER
THIS ISN'T FAIR! YOU GUYS HAVE THE ADVAN-TAGE!
AT SCHOOL, I ONLY GET TO SEE YOU AT LUNCH.
EVEN IF I COME BACK WITH YOU AFTER SCHOOL, I STILL ONLY GET TO SEE YOU THREE HOURS A DAY, TOPS!
I'M GONNA MOVE IN HERE FOR TWO WEEKS! AND I DEMAND WE RESTART THE BET!


A REAL ATTITUDE.
YOU'RE NOT THAT MEAN OF A GUY.

OKAY, DO WHAT YOU WANT.
BUT...
...ONLY IF YOUR PARENTS AGREE.

Merry X'mas!
YOU GOT A REAL ATTITUDE, ANISE.
GRIP
IF I WAS SOME PUNK FROM UPTOWN..
...I'D SHUT YOU UP PERMA-NENTLY.
I GET IT!
OKAY!
YOU GOTTA TALK TO HER LIKE SHE'S THE THREE-YEAR-OLD NEXT DOOR!
I TOLD YOU, SHE WAS JUST A KID!
NO WAY!
ANYWAY, WE CAN'T HAVE YOU STAYING HERE.
HEY!
THEN I'LL JUST GO TELL EVERY-BODY.

IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING WRONG, WHY WON'T YOU JUST TELL ME?
WHAT ABOUT THE WEEK-ENDS?
I'LL KEEP GOING TO SCHOOL, AND I'LL CALL YOU EVERY-DAY!
I WON'T DO ANY-THING WRONG!
I'LL GO TO MOM'S PLACE FOR THE DAY!
twist
AND I'M SUP-POSED TO SAY YES?
JUST LIKE THAT... YOU WON'T TELL ME?
PLEASE, ROB!
THIS IS REALLY, REALLY IMPOR-TANT TO ME!
SOME-BODY'S PRIVACY IS AT STAKE.
IT'S MY PROBLEM, AND I HAVE TO HANDLE IT ALONE.

flip
twist
HUH? I DIDN'T HEAR YOU.
SAY IT AGAIN, ANISE.
ATTITUDE
WHY SO LONG? AND WHOSE HOUSE?!
I CAN'T TELL YOU
TWO WEEKS?!
I SAID I WANT TO STAY AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

ANISE.
LOOK ME IN THE EYE.
ALL RIGHT, DARLING.
大

THAT "HIGHEST FORM OF RESPECT". THIS IS WHAT IT'S ABOUT.
I JUST HAD TO MAKE THIS BET.
EVEN IF THERE'S A 99%! CHANCE I'LL LOSE.
SLOOO
SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
WHAm

AH
THIS IS MY RITUAL FOR BUILDING UP COURAGE.
IT ITCHED SO MUCH THAT IT MADE ME CRY.
WHEN WE WERE STILL A FAMILY OF FOUR MY SKIN WAS WEAK AND I HAD A LOT OF ECZEMA.
..MOM WOULD GET THE TALCUM POWDER.
TALCUM
WHEN I GOT OUT OF THE BATH ..

JEEZ.
SLAM
大漁
GIVE ME A FEW MIN-UTES.
I'LL GO AFTER I TAKE A BATH.
ANISE
LEAV-ING AL-READY?
!
MELT AN ENGLISH BATH CUBE IN THE TUB.
SSHHH
LAY OUT A NEW TOW-EL...
..AND A NEW SHELL SOAP.

20

"THIS IS MAGIC POWDER. IT WILL MAKE YOUR SKIN STRONG." SHE SAID.
IT HAD A SWEET ORANGE SCENT.
puff
puff
cough
EVENTUALLY, THE ECZEMA WENT AWAY.

THIS IS MY TEDDY BEAR, AND MY GOBLIN DOLL.
AND YOUR OWN PIL-LOW, TOO
I BROUGHT SOME VIDEOS OF MTV.
HERE'S MY MODEL OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE, AND MY FAVORITE MUG
AND THIS IS THE POP MUSIC DOLL.
UH...
CUT IT OUT!
CAN YOU PUT BARBIE CLOTHES ON HIM?
AND STOP TAKING OFF HIS CLOTHES!
WHOAH YEAH!
HEY! DON'T POSE HIM LIKE THAT!

MAN. SHE REALLY CAME.
I'M HERE FOR TWO WEEKS!
LET'S MAKE THE BEST OF IT.
I'LL TRY NOT TO BE A NUISANCE.
A QUILT?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD A HOBBY LIKE THAT.
IT'S MOSTLY CLOTHES,
AND PIECES FOR A QUILT.
THAT IS A HUGE BAG.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN IT?

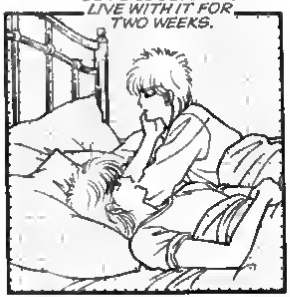
LADY UNICORN
THE THREE-YEAR-OLD NEXT DOOR DOESN'T NEED THINGS LIKE THAT.
ONLY A THREE-YEAR-OLD WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
DON'T BLAME ME!
HERE.
HM?
kacha
ARE YOU TWO GONNA SLEEP TOGETHER?
UH?
YEAH.
YOU CAN USE MY ROOM.
YOU TAKE CARE OF HER.
I THINK I'LL CRASH EARLY. I'VE GOT A LOCATION SHOOT TOMORROW.
WHAT?
AT LEAST LEAVE HALF THE BED OPEN.
THAT PRETTY SELFISH.
OKAY.
I'LL TRY.

AND A WHAT'S LITTLE CANISTER?
THIS?
RATTLE RATTLE
JUST LEAVE MY STUFF ALONE!
CLANK
IT'S FOR MY TAMPONS.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT HERE.
AND I'LL NEED IT IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

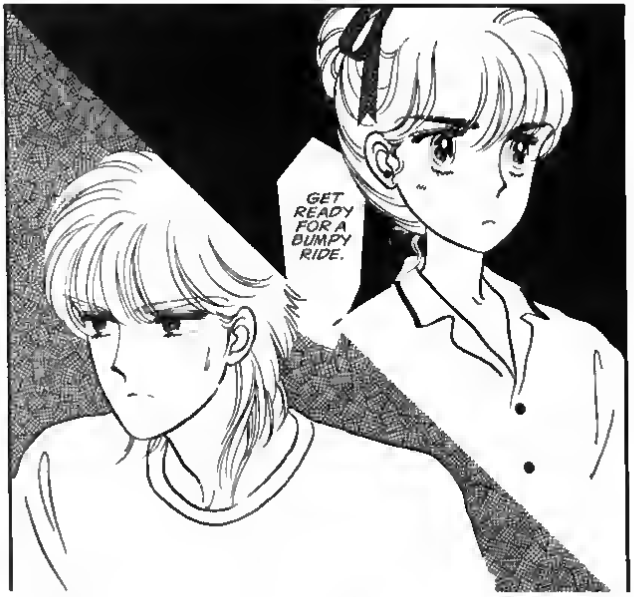
YES, BUT...
..NOT ON THE LIPS LIKE THAT.
SUMP
YOU DID SAY YOU WEREN'T GAY, DIDN'T YOU?
YEAH.
EVERY MORNING BEFORE LEAVING, AND EVERY NIGHT COMING HOME.
BUT STILL...
YOU KISS PEOPLE IN YOUR FAMILY, DON'T YOU?!
NO, WE'RE NOT GAY! WE'RE TWINS!
REALLY?
WELL, THAT'S HOW WE DO IT
.....

GOOD NIGHT.
UH.
DO YOU KISS LIKE THAT EVERY NIGHT?
SLIP
ANISE.
OKAY!
GOOD NIGHT

APERS
TISHMAN DELI
CUS
bebeep
HONK
HONK
HONK
tick tock
tick tock


IT'S ALL PRETTY DIFFERENT THAN WHAT I'M USED TO, BUT I'LL LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT FOR TWO WEEKS.

HMM...
I GUESS EVERYBODY HAS THEIR OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS.


GET READY FOR A BUMPY RIDE.

KNOCK
HURRY UP IN THERE!
ARE YOU TAKING A DUMP OR WHAT?
BA NG
SURE. WHY NOT?
JEEZ, ANISE.
DO YOU ALWAYS TALK THAT CRUDELY IN YOUR OWN HOUSE?
whhshh
WASHING YOUR UNDERWEAR?
WASHING MY UNDERWEAR.
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?

SMACK
SWAT
SWAT
ELLY! STOP THAT!
I'M TRYING TO CLEAN OUT YOUR LITTER BOX STAY OUT OF MY WAY!
.....
whh
shh
shh

NO

HURRY UP IN THERE! YOU'RE TAKING FOREVER!
SIGH

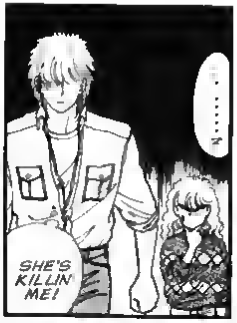
ALL

TOM

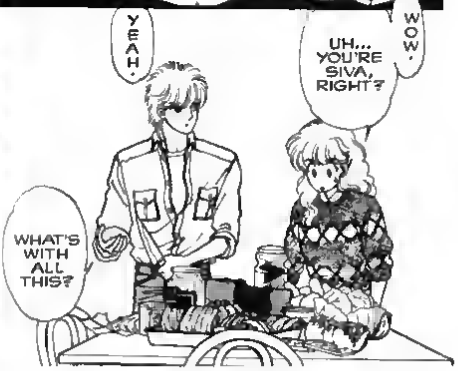
ZZZ

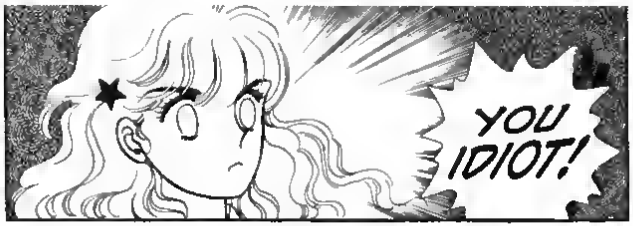
SPLISH
SPLASH!

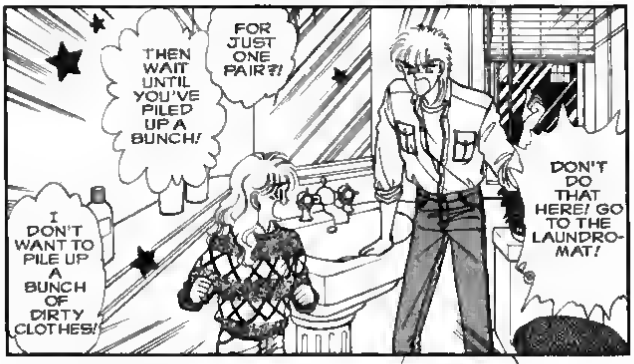
SHUUF


.....?
SHE'S KILLIN' ME!

WHU-MP


YEAH.
UH... YOU'RE SIVA, RIGHT?
WOW.
WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS?

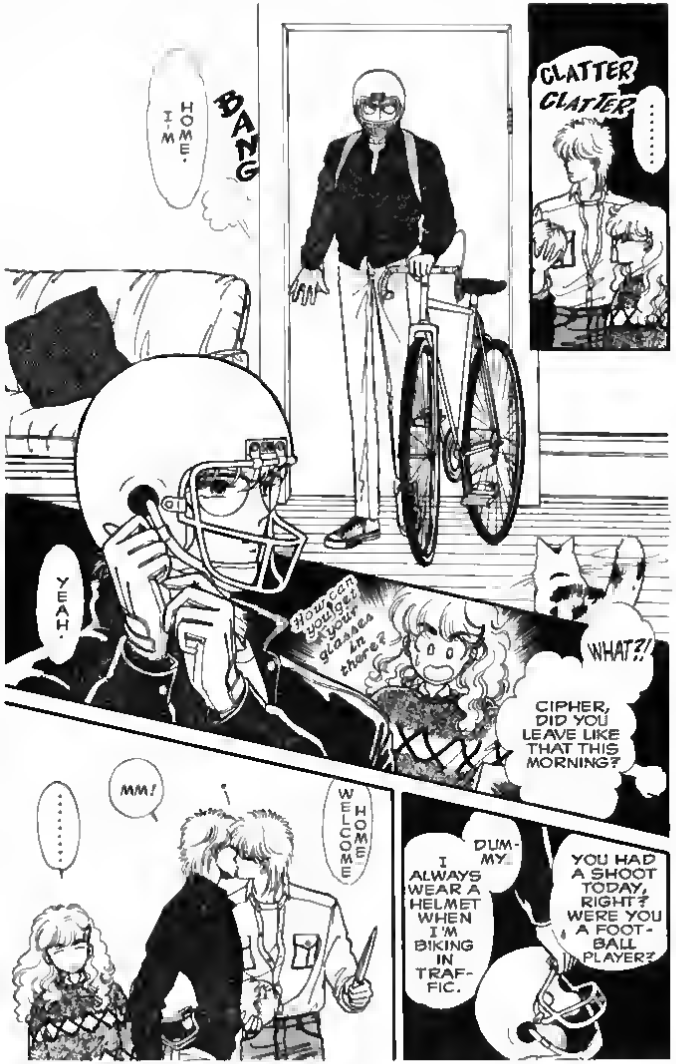

YOU IDIOT!


FOR JUST ONE PAIR?!
THEN WAIT UNTIL YOU'VE PILED UP A BUNCH!
I DON'T WANT TO PILE UP A BUNCH OF DIRTY CLOTHES!
DON'T DO THAT HERE! GO TO THE LAUNDROMAT!

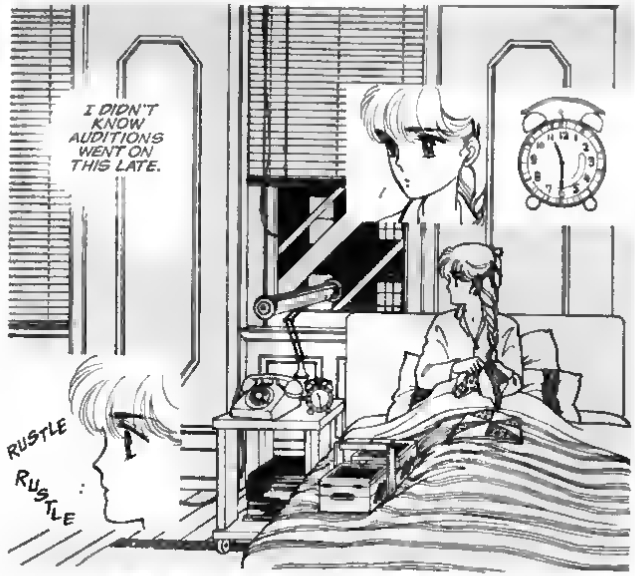
HOW COME?!
BE-CAUSE I DON'T WANT TO, THAT'S WHY!

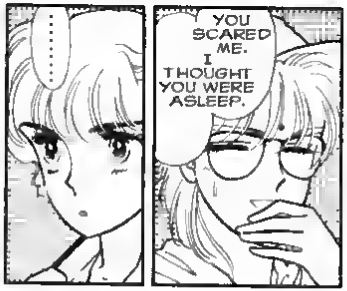
OKAY, OKAY.
JUST DON'T DO THAT WHERE I HAVE TO SEE IT.

IF I'M WALKING IN AND OUT WITH LAUNDRY, YOU'LL BE IN TROUBLE!
AND ME BEING HERE IS SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET!
Hmph!


I'M HOME.
BANG
CLATTER CLATTER
.....
YEAH.
How can you get your glasses in there?
WHAT?!
CIPHER, DID YOU LEAVE LIKE THAT THIS MORNING?
YOU HAD A SHOOT TODAY, RIGHT? WERE YOU A FOOTBALL PLAYER?
DUMMY. I ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET WHEN I'M BIKING IN TRAFFIC.
WELCOME HOME
MM!
.....

I'M GOING TO EAT IT ALL.
WELL, IT'S NOT JUST FOR DECORATION.
I GUESS...
...I'LL HAVE TWO.
UH..
HOW MANY BAKED POTATOES DO YOU WANT?
EAT IT ALL?
.....
HOW MANY HEADS OF LETTUCE?
YEAH.
USUALLY AFTER THAT, I GET HUNGRY AND EAT ANOTHER MEAL.
WAS THAT JUST TO CONCEAL WHO YOU ARE?
THAT'S SO DIFFERENT FROM THE SMALL MEAL YOU HAD BEFORE.



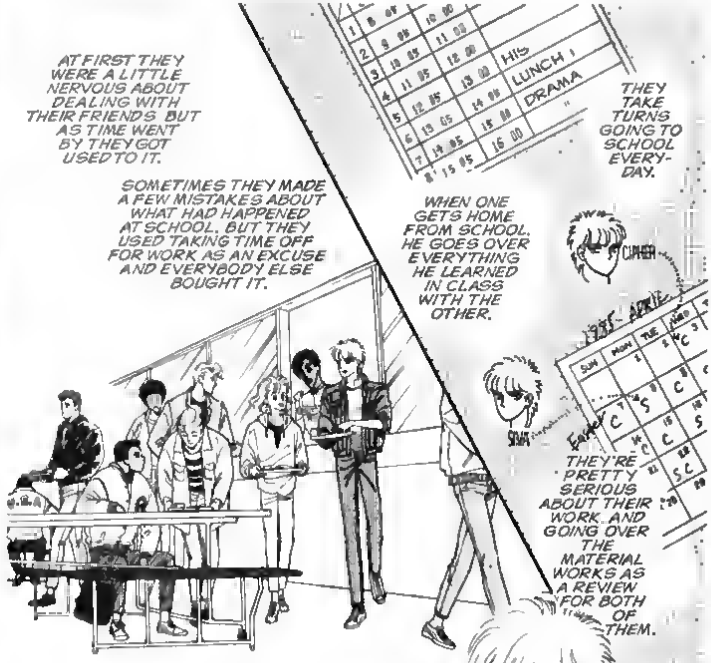


AT FIRST THEY WERE A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT DEALING WITH THEIR FRIENDS BUT AS TIME WENT BY THEY GOT USED TO IT.

SOMETIMES THEY MADE A FEW MISTAKES ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED AT SCHOOL. BUT THEY USED TAKING TIME OFF FOR WORK AS AN EXCUSE AND EVERYBODY ELSE BOUGHT IT.

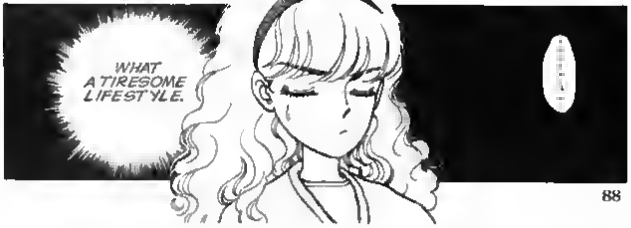
WHEN ONE GETS HOME FROM SCHOOL HE GOES OVER EVERYTHING HE LEARNED IN CLASS WITH THE OTHER.

THEY TAKE TURNS GOING TO SCHOOL EVERY-DAY.



THEY'RE PRETTY SERIOUS ABOUT THEIR WORK. AND GOING OVER THE MATERIAL WORKS AS A REVIEW FOR BOTH OF THEM.

OCCASIONALLY THEY'D EVEN GO OUT TOGETHER. SAYING, "MY BROTHER'S IN TOWN.



A FRIEND. DEFINITELY A FRIEND.
I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT...
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE IS AS A FRIEND..
Heh Heh.
..BUT THERE'S NO WAY I WANT HIM FOR A BOYFRIEND!

NAH. THIS IS ONLY THE THIRD TIME WE'VE MET
SOME-BODY CLOSE? YOUR FAM-ILY?
WHOSE LIP-STICK IS THAT ON YOUR FACE?
SHARP EYE YOU GOT THERE.
turn
I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE THREE DAYS!
THE THIRD TIME?!
UH... WHICH?
smile
WHICH WOULD YOU RATH-ER BE?
IT'S HARD FOR A GIRL-FRIEND TO BECOME A REAL FRIEND.
BUT SHE'S JUST A GIRL.
YOU ARE A CLOSE FRIEND.

FWUMP
OUT OF BED, YOU DELIN-QUENTS!
EEEE...
BEEP BEEP BEEP
CLICK
serious face
MORN-ING, SIVA.
HEY!
EVERYDAY I SEE A DIFFERENT FACE.

BUNT
YOU GET IT. PRETEND YOU'RE OUR MOM.
WILL YOU GUYS GET UP ALREADY?!
ANSWER THE DARN PHONE!
RRRRING
RRRRING
WHAM!!
WHAT A TINY BED!
RING
GIMME A BREAK!
OH... FINE!
CLICK
HELLO?
GOOD MORNING!
THIS IS THE PRINCIPAL, HAROLD DAVIS.
JOUT
THIS IS A RE-CORDED MORN-ING CALL.
YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY LATE FOR SCHOOL. THIS CALL WILL CONTINUE EVERYDAY UNTIL ATTENDANCE IMPROVES.
HAVE A NICE DAY!

SIVA
JAKE
I HAD NO IDEA YOU HAD SUCH ORDINARY NAMES.
BUSI-NESS NAMES?
EVEN THE TEACH-ERS CALL US THAT NOW.
CIPHER
ROY
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THOSE WERE KIND OF STRANGE.

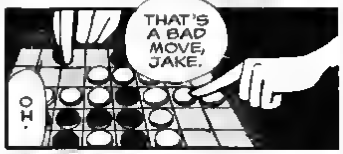
That a him over there, not me.
ROY
THAT'S JUST LIKE ROY HAY OF CULTURE CLUB--MY FAVORITE BAND!

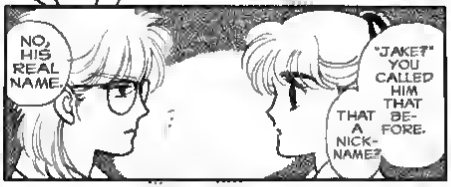
BUT... HOW COME?
WHY NOT?
.....

PLEASE DON'T EVER CALL US BY OUR REAL NAMES.

SIVA IS JAKE RANG. CIPHER IS ROY RANG.
"SIVA" AND "CIPHER" ARE BUSINESS NAMES WE TOOK WHEN WE STARTED MODELING.

ARE THEY BOTH PLAYBOYS, OR JUST ONE OF THEM? ARE THEY BOTH ALWAYS LATE, OR JUST ONE OF THEM?
IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO FIGURE OUT WHERE TO TELL THEM APART


THAT'S A BAD MOVE, JAKE.
OH.

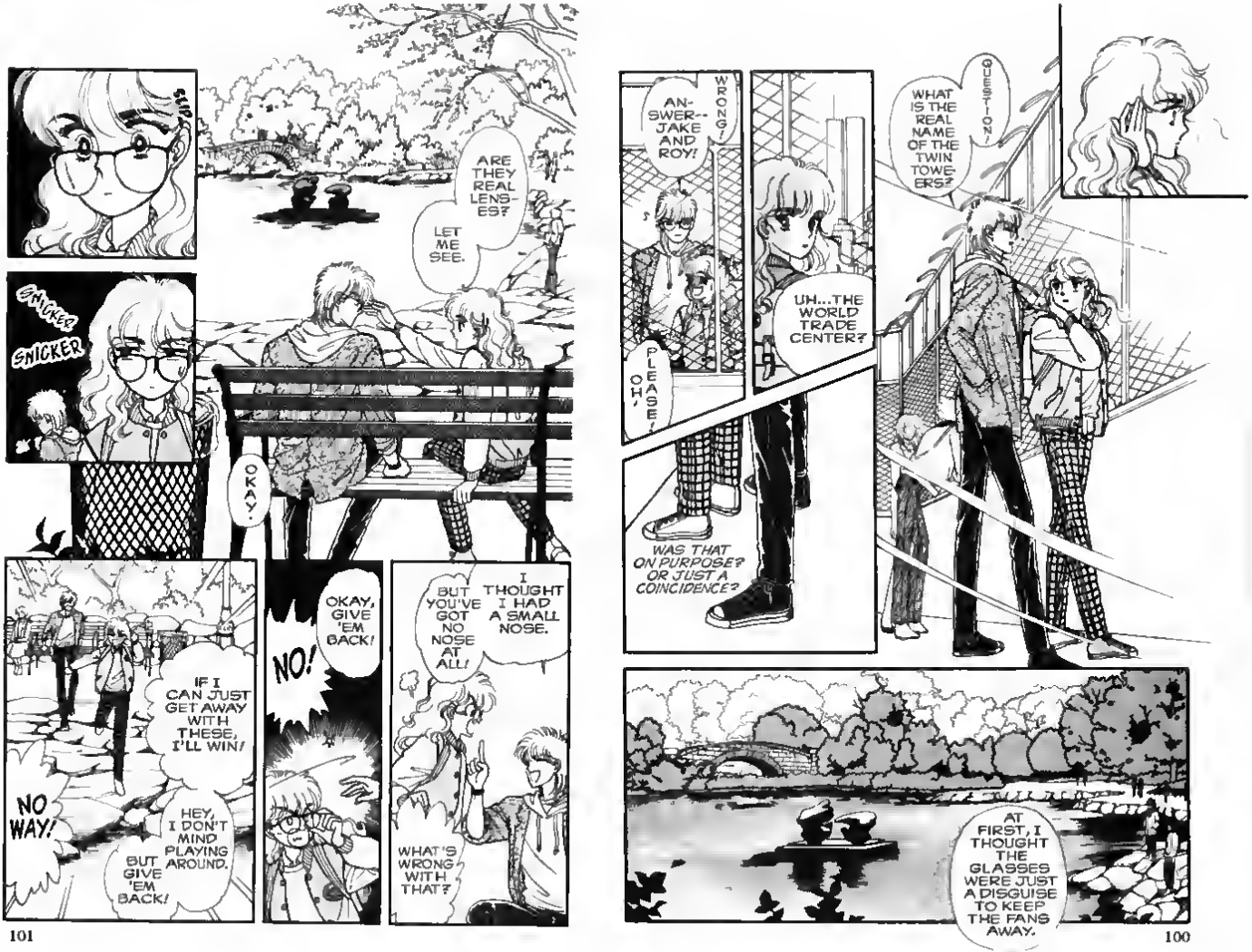

NO, HIS REAL NAME.
"JAKE?" YOU CALLED HIM THAT BE-FORE.
THAT A NICK-NAME?

IF I CAN KEEP MY SIGHTS ON JUST ONE OF THEM...
THEN I'LL FIND WHAT MAKES HIM DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER!
+
2
THAT'S IT!
IF I LOOK AT THEM TOGETHER, I'M TWICE AS CONFUSED!
YEAH?
UH... CIPHER!
EITHER ONE IS OKAY. JUST PICK ONE
UM...
ALL RIGHT, THEN! THAT'S IT!
A TOUR OF MANHAT-TAN CHUR-CHES!
SUN-DAY, WE'RE GOING ON A DATE!
ALL AROUND MAN-HATTAN.
WH—
WHY?
SUNDAY IS EASTER.
WHAT ABOUT CHURCH?

I GUESS I'LL ALWAYS BE OUT-NUM-BERED
IT'LL ALWAYS BE TWO-TO-ONE.
IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
FORGET IT. JUST DON'T, PLEASE
THANKS.
WAIT.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO SOMETHING LIKE HIDE THE KEY TO TELL US APART, ARE YOU?
NO, NOT AT ALL.
WHEN WE'RE AT HOME, WE'RE NOT INTENTION-ALLY HIDING ANYTHING.
IF THEY LOSE THE BET, IT WILL DESTROY THEIR FACADE
LIKE THAT DELICATE MEAL HE ATE BEFORE I MOVED IN.
THEY ARE HIDING EACH OTHER'S INDIVIDUAL CHARACTER-ISTICS.

HI
CALL ME!
HI, SIVA!
HOW ARE YOU?
HELLO, SIVA.
HI.
IT WASN'T A COMPLIMENT!
smile
SEEMS LIKE YOU KNOW EVERY WOMAN IN NEW YORK.
PFEEW
OW

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL!
RIVERSIDE CHURCH
ST. PATRICK'S
THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!
IS THAT A CHURCH?
I'VE NEVER BEEN UP TO THE TOP. LET'S GO.
NOW WHERE?
YOU SOUND REALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT, SOMEHOW.
SURE, I LIKE GOING OUT ON DATES!


AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THE GLASSES WERE JUST A DISGUISE TO KEEP THE FANS AWAY.
WHAT IS THE REAL NAME OF THE TWIN TOWERS?
QUESTION!
UH...THE WORLD TRADE CENTER?
WRONG!
AN-SWER-- JAKE AND ROY!
OH, PLEASE!
WAS THAT ON PURPOSE? OR JUST A COINCIDENCE?
ARE THEY REAL LENSES?
LET ME SEE.
SNICK
SNICKER
SNICKER
OKAY.
I THOUGHT I HAD A SMALL NOSE.
BUT YOU'VE GOT NO NOSE AT ALL!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
NO!
OKAY, GIVE 'EM BACK!
IF I CAN JUST GET AWAY WITH THESE, I'LL WIN!
NO WAY!
HEY, I DON'T MIND PLAYING AROUND. BUT GIVE 'EM BACK!

I CAN'T TELL FROM HERE.
I THINK THEY ARE OKAY.
YOUR GLASSES ARE THEY BROKEN?
OH MY-GOD! I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!
I'LL GO GET THEM BACK.
THEN WHAT DO I DO? SWIM OUT THERE?
THAT'D BE A WASTE OF MONEY.
IT'S MY FAULT I'LL PAY!
AND I DON'T WANT TO RENT A BOAT OR TIP ANY-BODY.
THERE RIGHT HERE.
UH.. I'LL GO FIND A MAINTEN-ANCE MAN, AND I'LL LOOK FOR A BOAT.
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT?

HEY! WATCH OUT!
WHUMP
CLINK
NO!
JA
AN

OKAY
HE SMILED.
HUH?
BLINK

I DIDN'T SAY YOU HAD TO GO GET THEM.
THEN ARE YOU GOING TO SWIM OVER THERE? WILL YOU DO THAT?
IT'S MY FAULT.
OF COURSE I DO SO.
ALL RIGHT. I'M SORRY. IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
PLEASE GO GET THEM.
heh heh heh
.....
OOOH!
YOU'LL CATCH COLD BY THE TIME YOU GET HOME.
YOU ARE SMIRKING AGAIN!
I'LL SWIM WITH MY CLOTHES ON, IF I HAVE TO!

IF HE HADN'T SMILED LIKE THAT...
THEN GIVE ME MY CLOTHES. I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT.
CUT THAT OUT!
HEY! DON'T TOUCH ME TILL YOU'VE GOT YOUR CLOTHES ON!
THANKS!
SMILE
FRANKFURTER SAUSAGES
..THEN WE WOULDN'T BE TALKING LIKE THIS.
I WAS GOING TO TREAT YOU.

HE SMILED AT ME.
UH... OKAY.
I'M SWIMMING IN JUST MY UNDER-WEAR. SO DON'T LOOK.
UM.
STAND GUARD FOR ME, OKAY.
DRY YOUR-SELF OFF WITH YOUR SHIRT.
GOOD JOB
HEY! LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
CHECK THIS OUT! YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!
MAYBE THAT WASN'T COINCI-DENCE.

SHE WENT TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE
I THINK SHE'LL BE A WHILE.
THE NURSE'S OFFICE?
YEAH.
HEY, SIVA
ARE YOU WAITING FOR ANISE?
HI, CIPHER.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
AT SCHOOL, CALL ME SIVA.
OOPS.

YOU'RE NOT THAT MEAN OF A GUY.

EITHER ONE.
YOU SAID BEFORE YOU'D STOP ME!
STOP YOU? OR STOP THE FIGHT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TRY TO STOP IT?!
YEAH, BUT...
...THIS TIME, I WASN'T YOUR ESCORT.

COME ON. YOU TRIED TO STOP A FIGHT.
ha ha ha
I SORTA MESSED UP!
I FELL DOWN THE STAIRS
YEAH.
SO MANY CUTS: OKAY? YOU ARE...
WELL...
WHEN I TRIED TO STOP IT, I FELL ON THE STAIRS.
HOW DID YOU KNOW? DID SOMEBODY TELL YOU?
WELL, NO
NO, JUST WHEN YOU DIVED IN.
YOU PASSED BY?
YOU SAW THE WHOLE THING?
I SAW IT WHEN I PASSED BY.

YOU SAID I'M NOT A STRANGER.
BUT I'M NOT A FRIEND, AM I?
.....
THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?
YOU JUST CAN'T GO AROUND SAVING ALL THE GIRLS OF NEW YORK, IS THAT IT?

THAT'S WHY YOU WON'T LET ME CALL YOU BY YOUR REAL NAME. IT'S BECAUSE I'M NOT A REAL FRIEND YET.

JUST BECAUSE YOU WON'T HELP ME, IT DOESN'T GIVE ME THE RIGHT TO BLAME YOU.

I'M HOME!
HEY.
WHERE'S ANISE?
DON'T KNOW.
YOU'RE IN A BAD MOOD.
WHAT'S UP?
ANISE PUNCHED ME.

TUM TUM TUM

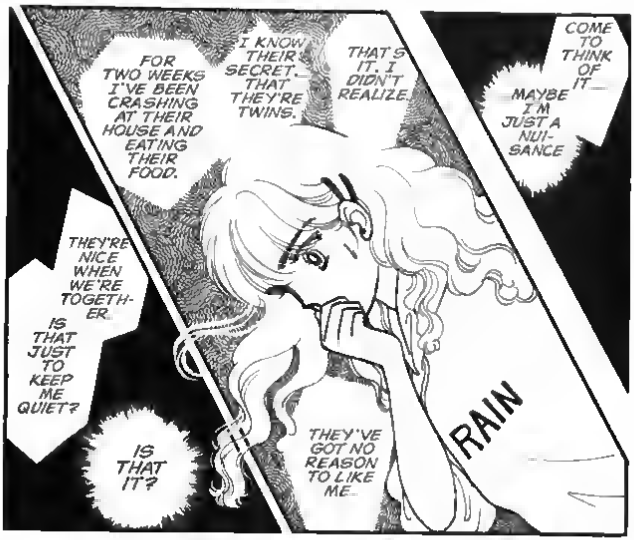
DON'T WORRY.
WE CAN'T HAVE HER TELLING US APART. WE JUST HAVE TO HIDE OUR PERSONALITIES.
.....
FEELING BAD ABOUT YOURSELF?
IF WE TELL HER THAT WE'RE NOT THE PEOPLE SHE THINKS WE ARE, IT'LL HURT HER.
THEN YOU'LL FEEL EVEN WORSE.
WE'RE NOT AS NICE AS SHE THINKS WE ARE.
IN THE END, WE'RE CONCEALING OUR REAL CHARACTER IN FRONT OF HER.
IT MAKES ME FEEL BAD THAT SHE TRUSTS US SO MUCH.
...NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
...FEEL LIKE MESSING WITH HER?
SHE TOTALLY BELIEVES US.
SHE REALLY IS NAIVE.
SO... THEN...

YOU IDIOT. OF COURSE SHE PUNCHED YOU!
.....
YOU SAID WHAT?!
NO, JUST SOME SHOVING.
THEN, WHY?
WAS IT A REAL FIGHT?
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST STOP IT?
LAME EXCUSE.
YOU'RE JUST CHICKEN.
UH...
...I DIDN'T HAVE TIME.

BUZZ
HEY, IT'S ME.
OPEN UP.
I ONLY MEANT I HATE THAT ONE PART OF YOU.
...HEY, C'MON, I CARE ABOUT YOU, TOO, JAKE!
HE REALLY IS CUTE.
WH
AM
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ARE YOU LEAVING?
I GUESS OUR TIMING WAS BAD
BASA
BASA
Pop Star doll dressed in Barbie clothes.

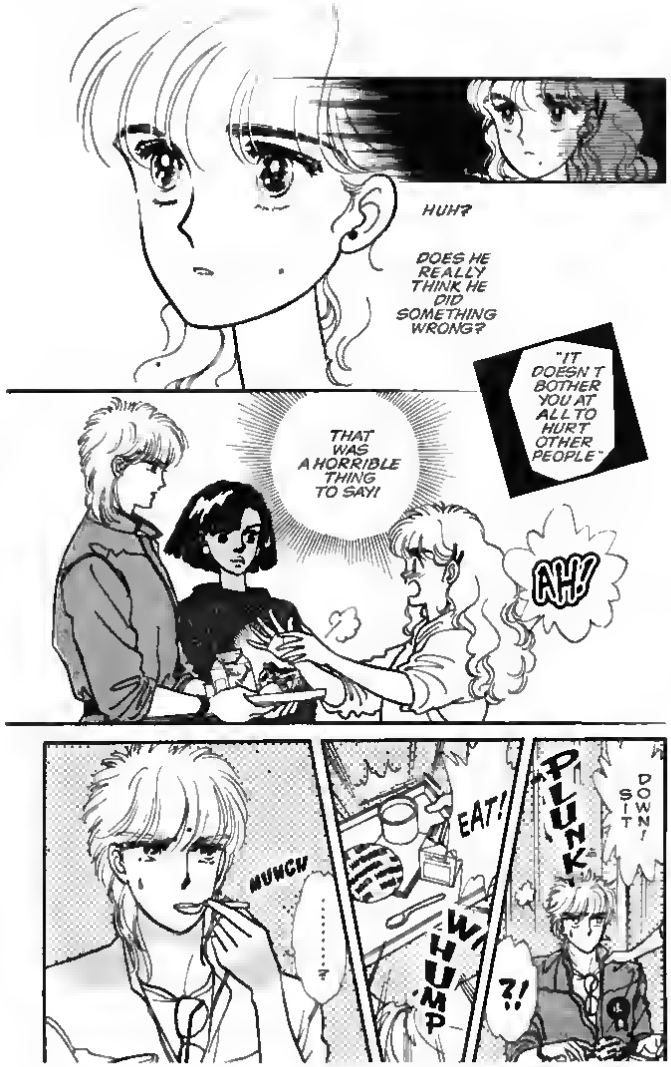
SAY SOMETHING TO ANISE AND APOLOGIZE.
SHE KNOWS OUR SECRET. DON'T MAKE HER INTO AN ENEMY.
I CAN'T BE LIKE THAT.
I REALLY HATE YOUR CALCULATING SELF-INTEREST.
...I THINK YOU'RE CUTE.
UH...
UM...
AH...
REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU THINK OF ME...

FLIP
murmur murmur
HI, ANISE.
YOU'RE NOT WITH SIVA TODAY?
PHEW
WELL.
YOU'RE PRETTY TOUGH.
OH.
I DON'T WANT YOU TOUCHING STUFF, SO I'M PUTTING IT AWAY.
I HAVE ONE WEEK LEFT WHY WOULD I LEAVE NOW?
YOU, TOO.
IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU AT ALL TO HURT OTHER PEOPLE.

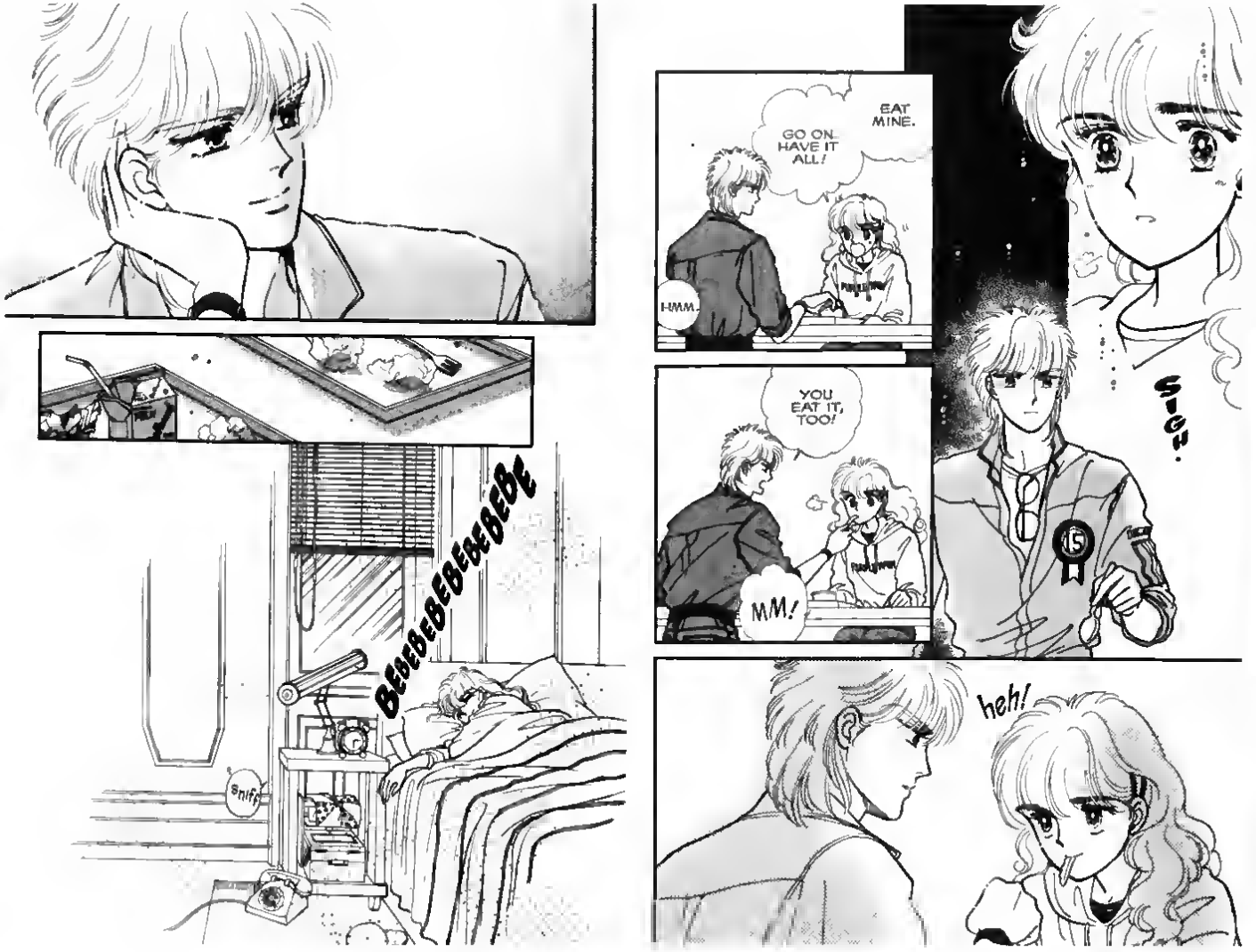

FOR TWO WEEKS I'VE BEEN CRASHING AT THEIR HOUSE AND EATING THEIR FOOD.
I KNOW THEIR SECRET— THAT THEY'RE TWINS.
THAT'S IT. I DIDN'T REALIZE.
COME TO THINK OF IT—
MAYBE I'M JUST A NUI-SANCE
THEY'RE NICE WHEN WE'RE TOGETH-ER.
IS THAT JUST TO KEEP ME QUIET?
IS THAT IT?
THEY'VE GOT NO REASON TO LIKE ME.
RAIN

CLATTER
SHOCK
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
YOU'RE SO QUIET, AND YOU DIDN'T EAT ANY-THING.
WELL...

SIVA HAS HIGH STAND-ARDS IS THAT WHY.
hee hee
...HE DUMPED YOU?
YESTERDAY, SIVA WENT OUT FOR A JOB.
TODAY IT'S CIPHER'S TURN TO COME TO SCHOOL.
NOT AT ALL.
NO.
.....
BLINK BLINK
HE REALLY DOES HAVE HIGH STAND-ARDS.
THAT'S WHY HE WOULDN'T EVEN GIVE YOU THE TIME OF DAY.
WE'RE NOT CLOSE AT ALL.
HE DOESN'T THINK OF ME AS ANY MORE THAN AN ACQUAINT-ANCE.
SHE'S JUST JEALOUS THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN SO CLOSE TO SIVA.
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.
COME WITH ME.
HEY, RUTH!


HUH?
DOES HE REALLY THINK HE DID SOMETHING WRONG?
"IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU AT ALL TO HURT OTHER PEOPLE."
THAT WAS A HORRIBLE THING TO SAY!
AH!
MUNCH
.....?
EAT!
WHUMP
PLUNK
SIT DOWN!
?!

AND, SIVA! WHY'RE YOU JUST STANDING THERE?!
HEY, ANISE! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
WHAT'S HAPPENING? DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO HURT ANISE?
GOBBLE GOBBLE CHOMP CHOMP MUNCH
SNATCH
HMPH!
MUNCH CHOMP MUNCH CHOMP MUNCH CHOMP
Anise's lunch

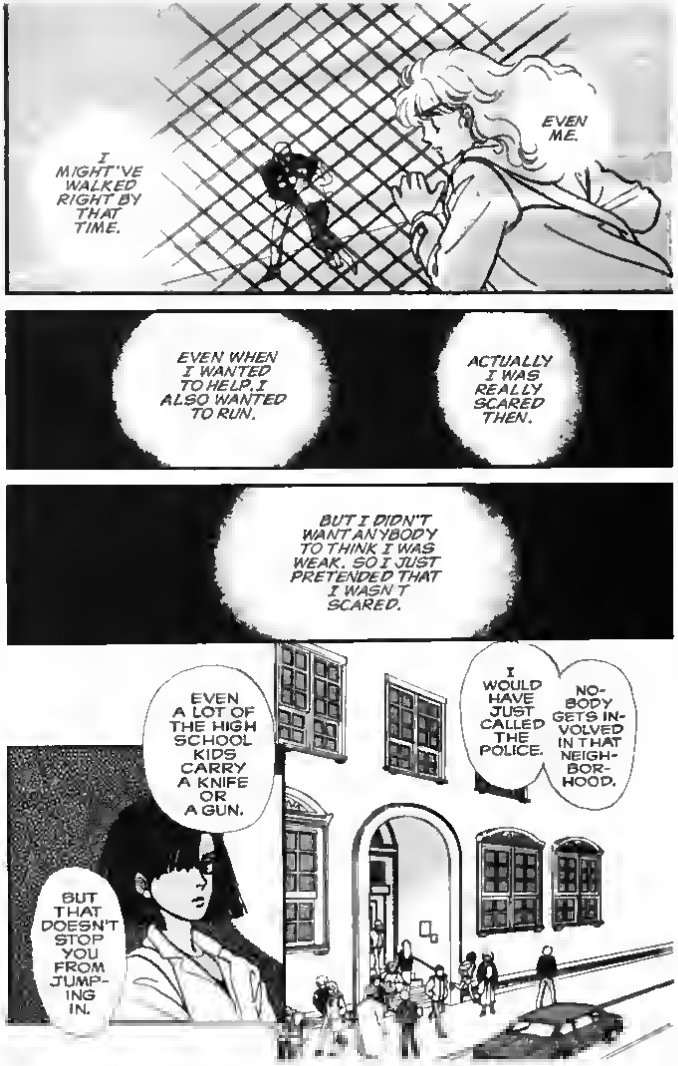

EAT MINE.
GO ON. HAVE IT ALL!
HMM.
YOU EAT IT, TOO!
MM!
SIGH.
heh!
BEEEEEEEEEEEEE
Sniff

WH-
WHAT?
HEY-- I'VE ALWAYS LIKED IT!
SQUEAK
IS THAT JUST SINCE YOU MOVED IN HERE?
I LIKE CLEANING THINGS.
YOU NOTICED
.....
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO.
OH, IT'S NO REAL PROBLEM.
WELL, THANKS.
IT'S A REAL HELP.

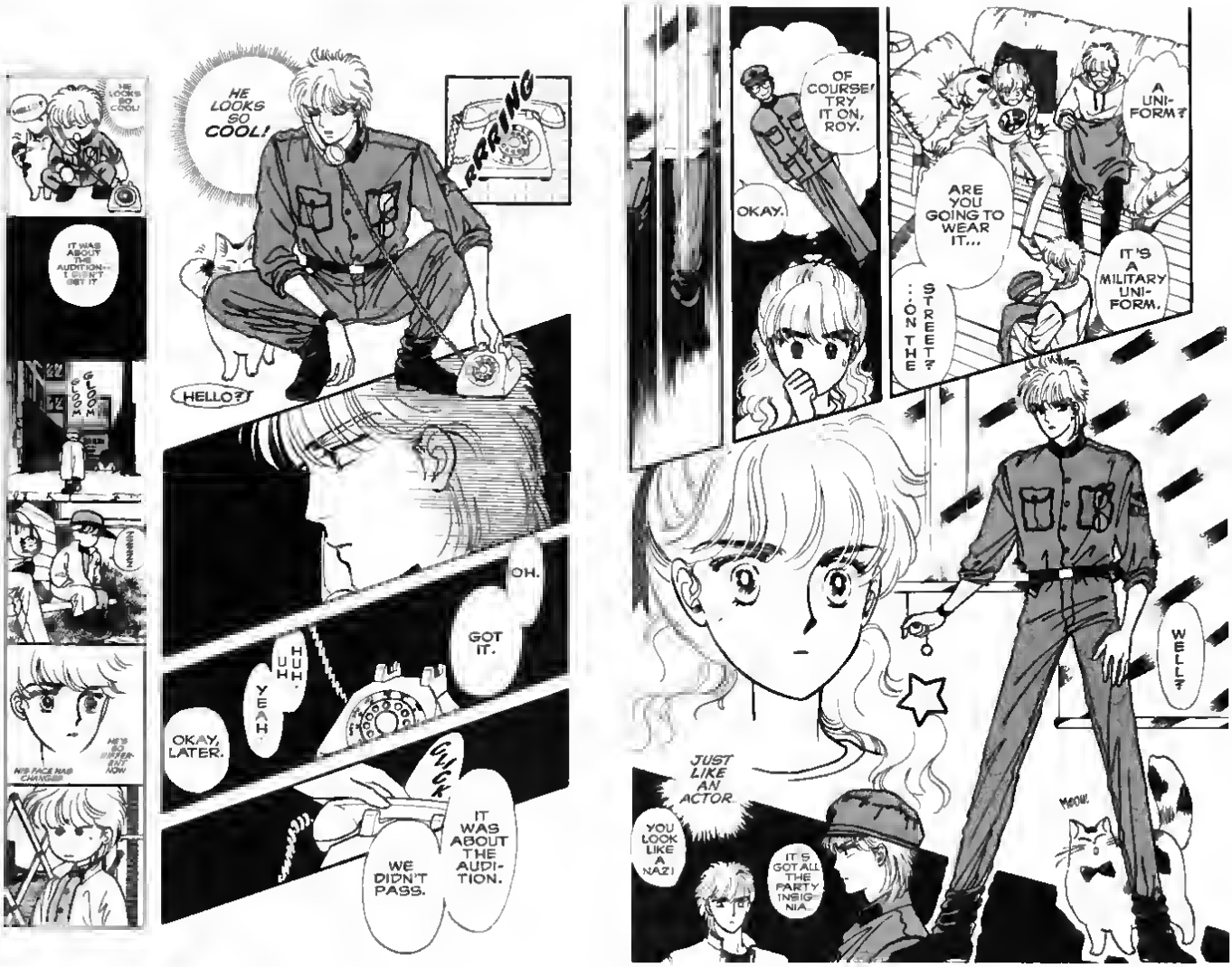
HERE, LET ME.
BUT IT'S THE BATHROOM
TELL HER TO COME OUT.
WHAT'S ANISE IS STILL IN THERE?
ARE YOU TAKING A DUMP, OR WHAT?
BA
M!
.....
scrub scrub
HMM.
WAS IT YOU WHO WASHED THE WINDOWS, AND MY BIKE?
NO.
THAT WAS SIVA WHO KNOCKED. I'M CIPHER.
SORRY ABOUT THAT. COME ON IN!
HA HA HA HA HA!
ARE YOU SIVA?

I'VE GOT T.P.
IS HE A GOOD GUY?
HERE, TIS-SUES.
MAYBE IT'S A MISTAKE TO EVEN TRY TO LABEL HIM AS "GOOD" OR "BAD."
EVERY-BODY'S GOT THEIR GOOD AND BAD PARTS
I JUST CAN'T TELL.
IS HE A BAD GUY?
... WEAK ... BOW-ELS.
HA...
BWA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LAUGH THAT HARD!
UH...
OH, MY GOD! IS MY NOSE BLEED-ING?
WAIT! HOLD STILL!
HERE HOLD THIS TIGHT.
YOU'RE LUCKY IT'S JUST YOUR NOSE.
I'VE GOT WEAK BOW-ELS.
I'VE ALWAYS HAD WEAK MEMBRANES IN MY NOSE.
I'LL RINSE IT OFF.
OH, YUCK. I'M STILL DRIP-PING.
REALLY?
YES, REALLY
DON'T SWALLOW THE BLOOD. SPIT IT OUT.

AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF GET-TING HURT?
BUT THE THING I'M MOST AFRAID OF IS HAVING SOMEONE SEE ME TURN MY BACK AND RUN
'CAUSE THEN YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL GET ATTACKED.
OF COURSE I'M AFRAID
WAIT!
"DON'T LOOK BACK."
"SHOW ANY WEAKNESS, AND YOU LOSE."
HOW COME HE COULD TELL?
DID I LOOK SCARED THEN? DID IT SHOW?
PAT PAT
HUH?
FOR-GET ABOUT IT.
DON'T EVER CHANGE, KID.
WELL, ANY-WAY...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I KNOW WHO WOULD HELP.
I CAN'T FIGURE YOU OUT.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE COURA-GEOUS, OR JUST CRAZY.
TWITCH


I MIGHT'VE WALKED RIGHT BY THAT TIME.
EVEN ME.
EVEN WHEN I WANTED TO HELP, I ALSO WANTED TO RUN.
ACTUALLY I WAS REALLY SCARED THEN.
BUT I DIDN'T WANT ANYBODY TO THINK I WAS WEAK. SO I JUST PRETENDED THAT I WASN'T SCARED.
EVEN A LOT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL KIDS CARRY A KNIFE OR A GUN.
BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP YOU FROM JUMP-ING IN.
I WOULD HAVE JUST CALLED THE POLICE.
NO-BODY GETS IN-VOLVED IN THAT NEIGH-BOR-HOOD.

ha ha ha ha ha
ARE YOU LISTENING TO A WORD I SAY?!
QUIT JOKING!
NOW THERE ARE ONLY FOUR DAYS LEFT!
WEIRD.
I'VE NEVER HEARD SIVA LAUGH HARD LIKE THAT.
WHAT DO YA THINK?
I PICKED IT UP IN CHINA-TOWN.
I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME SIVA AT SCHOOL!
LISTEN!
SIVA!
HEY, CIPHER!
CIPHER!
JOLT
IF YOU ALWAYS DESERT PEOPLE...
...THEN NOBODY WILL HELP YOU WHEN YOU NEED IT!
POWER CHARGED UP 100%
WELL...
...YOU'D COME HELP ME, WOULDN'T YOU?


HE LOOKS SO COOL!
HE LOOKS SO COOL!
IT WAS ABOUT THE AUDITION-- I DIDN'T GET IT
GLOOM
GLOOM
HMMMM
HE'S FACE HAS CHANGED
HE'S SO DIFFERENT NOW
RRRING
HELLO?
OH.
GOT IT.
UH-HUH.
YEAH.
OKAY, LATER.
CLICK
IT WAS ABOUT THE AUDITION.
WE DIDN'T PASS.
OF COURSE! TRY IT ON, ROY.
OKAY.
A UNIFORM?
ARE YOU GOING TO WEAR IT...
...ON THE STREET?
IT'S A MILITARY UNIFORM.
WELL?
JUST LIKE AN ACTOR.
YOU LOOK LIKE A NAZI
IT'S GOT ALL THE PARTY INSIGNIA
MEOW.

I'LL JUST FOLLOW, WITHOUT TALKING TO HIM.
I CAN'T HELP WORRYING
SIP
THE FERRY?
IS HE GOING TO RICH-MOND?
CITY OF NEW YORK

.....
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME HE'S FAILED AN AUDITION FOR THAT SAME DIRECTOR.
LEAVE HIM ALONE.
KACH
AK
I'M GOING OUT.
FLAP
SLAM
!
WAIT! ANISE!
CLOMP

MY GOD...
HE LOOKS LIKE A PICTURE OF A PASSED OUT OLD ALCOHOLIC.
...NO! I CAN'T LOOK!
2
3
DOOR

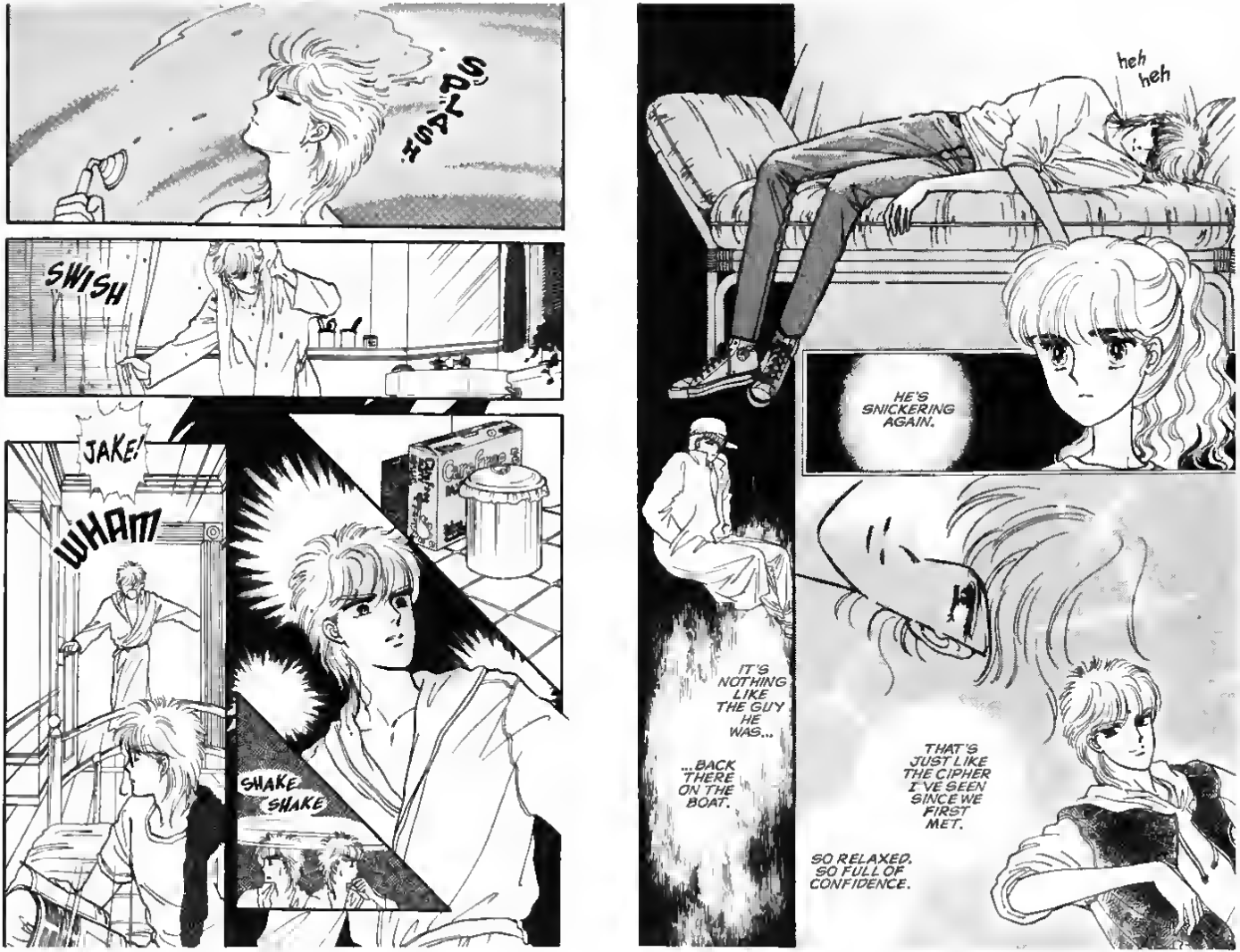
TWITCH
WHAT THE...?

HE'S STARING AT THE CITY SKYLINE
WHAT?
IS HE TURNING AROUND AND COMING BACK?
HE'S SO DIFFERENT NOW.
NOW HE'S STANDING AT THE FRONT OF THE BOAT.
HIS FACE HAS CHANGED.

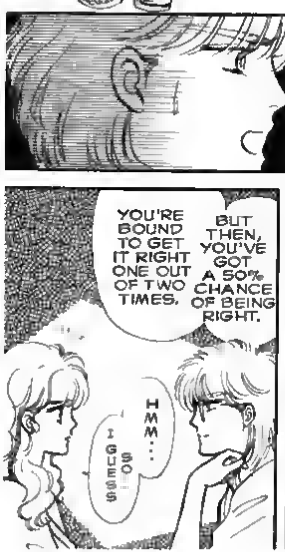
THAT TIME, JUST LIKE ME..
..HE MUST HAVE BEEN SCARED, TOO.
GARA GARA GARA GARA
murmur
murmur murmur
"DON'T LOOK BACK"
"SHOW ANY WEAKNESS, AND YOU LOSE."
THAT'S CIPHER'S RITUAL.
WHEN HE'S UNEASY OR WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING.
IT'S LIKE THE BATH I TAKE WHEN I FEEL LIKE JUST GIVING UP.
HE LEAVES MANHATTAN, AND THEN HE COMES BACK.

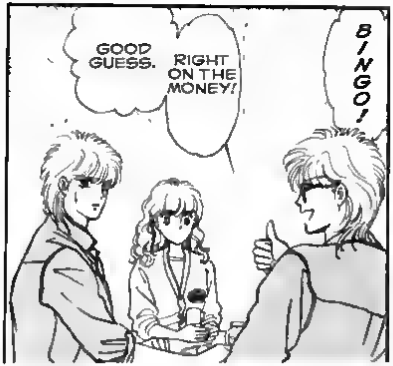
THE SMELL OF THE SAME SHAM-POO.
AND ... ...THE SMELL OF THE CAT.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I DO SMELL OF THE CAT.
SEE? CAT HAIR
YOU'RE A LOT LIKE A CAT, ANISE
YOU HAVE THIS BUSHY TAIL, AND YOU'RE EYES ARE THE SAME COLOR AS ELLY.
SWISH
OH, LEAVE ME ALONE!
CLUNK
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S LIKE A CAT.

WHAT?
YOU'RE ...BEGIN-NING TO SMELL LIKE US.

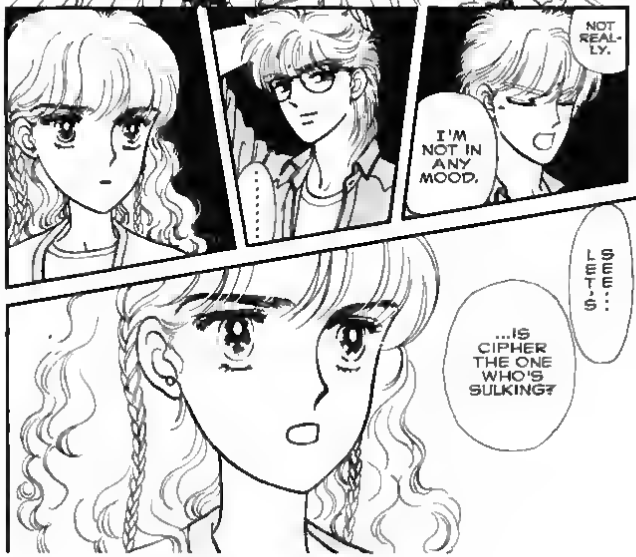

SWISH
JAKE!
WHAM
SHAKE
SHAKE
heh
heh
HE'S SNICKERING AGAIN.
IT'S NOTHING LIKE THE GUY HE WAS...
...BACK THERE ON THE BOAT.
THAT'S JUST LIKE THE CIPHER I'VE SEEN SINCE WE FIRST MET.
SO RELAXED. SO FULL OF CONFIDENCE.

FOR BUTT?
MAMA DRINK SOME COKE?
SLEEP WELL, YOU.
YEAH.
I WASN'T COMPLETELY SURE BUTT THINK IT WAS OTHER LAST TIME.
THE TWO WEEKS ARE AT MOST!
I GAVE HER SOME EARLIER.
FOR CRAMPS?
SLAM
MED! CINE?
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE THERE.
I STILL DON'T THINK SHE CAN TELL US APART.
HOW COME SHE TALKED TO YOU ABOUT IT?
.....
.....
YOURS?
.....
WHAT?!
IT STARTED!
IT ALREADY STARTED!
THE PERIOD.
IDIOT!
C'MON, IT WAS JUST A JOKE.
I KNOW YOU MEANT ANISE.
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
THANKS
FINE. THE MEDICINE'S WORKING.
HOW YA FEELING?
NO. WHY?
DID YOU CALL ME?
GAH!


YOU'RE BOUND TO GET IT RIGHT ONE OUT OF TWO TIMES.
BUT THEN, YOU'VE GOT A 50% CHANCE OF BEING RIGHT.
HMM...
SO... I GUESS

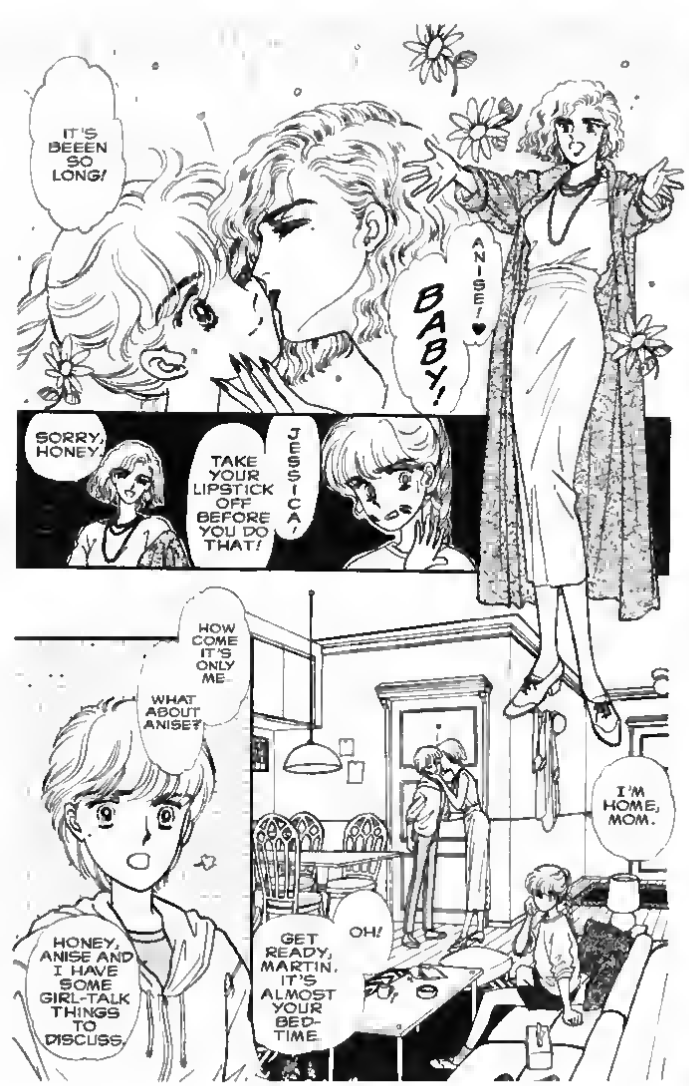

GOOD GUESS.
RIGHT ON THE MONEY!
BINGO!

WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU IN A BAD MOOD?
HEY, BOY?
WHY'RE YOU POUTING?
I'M NOT POUTING!
HEH
SUMF

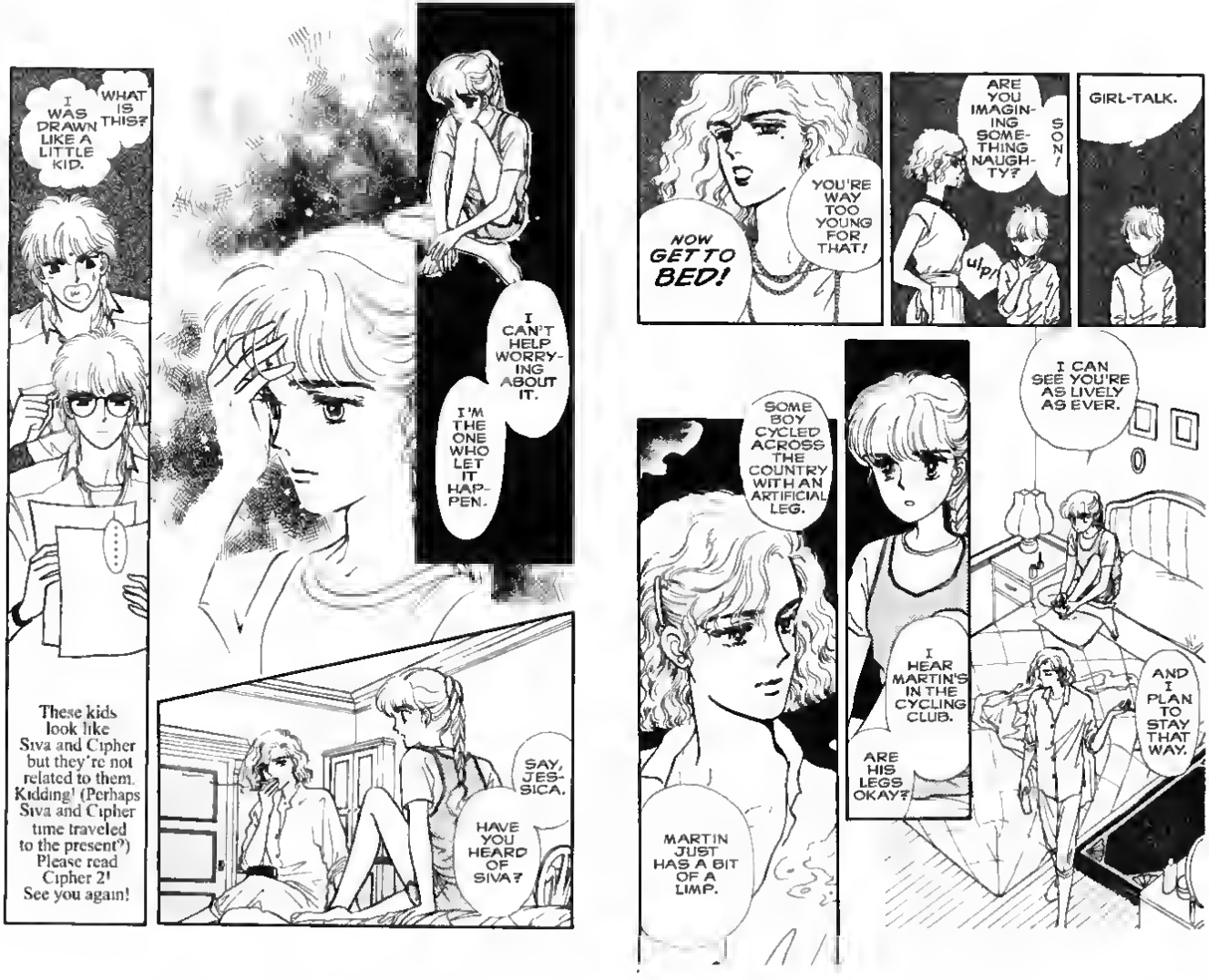

NOT REALLY.
I'M NOT IN ANY MOOD.
LET'S SEE...
...IS CIPHER THE ONE WHO'S SULKING?

MA...
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.
MY MOTHER IS TOTALLY BEAUTIFUL LIKE MADONNA.
MY PARENTS ARE DIVORCED.
YOUR MOM'S...?
I NEED TO GO TO MY MOM'S HOUSE.
BUT I HAVE TO GO OUT TONIGHT.
DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME?!
REALLY?
LIKE MADONNA?
YOUR MOTHER?
YEAH, MAYBE.
CAN YOU TELL US APART WELL ENOUGH TO TAKE A BREAK?
YOU MUST BE PRETTY CONFIDENT.

WE NEED TO FINALIZE THE TERMS OF THE BET.
YOUR TWO WEEKS ARE ALMOST UP!
YOU ONLY GET ONE CHANCE. OTHERWISE, THE ODDS THAT YOU GET LUCKY ARE TOO HIGH.
WE'LL ASK YOU THREE TIMES OVER THE COURSE OF THE DAY.
IF YOU DON'T GET IT RIGHT ALL THREE TIMES, WE WIN.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
WHAT?!
WE'LL LET YOU OFF WITH THREE TIMES.
PERSONALLY, I THINK IT'S POSSIBLE TO GUESS LUCKY THREE TIMES IN A ROW
YUP.
WAIT! TWO WEEKS ARE UP THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

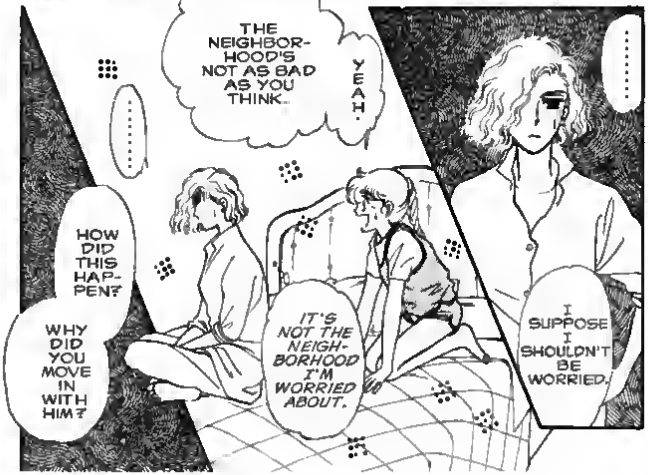

IT'S BEEEN SO LONG!
ANISE! ♥
BABY!
SORRY, HONEY.
TAKE YOUR LIPSTICK OFF BEFORE YOU DO THAT!
JESSICA
HOW COME IT'S ONLY ME
WHAT ABOUT ANISE?
HONEY, ANISE AND I HAVE SOME GIRL-TALK THINGS TO DISCUSS.
I'M HOME, MOM.
OH!
GET READY, MARTIN. IT'S ALMOST YOUR BED-TIME.

"IF YOU CAN TELL US APART AFTER TWO WEEKS, YOU WIN.
"THEN WE'LL TELL YOU THE REASON WHY WE DO THIS."

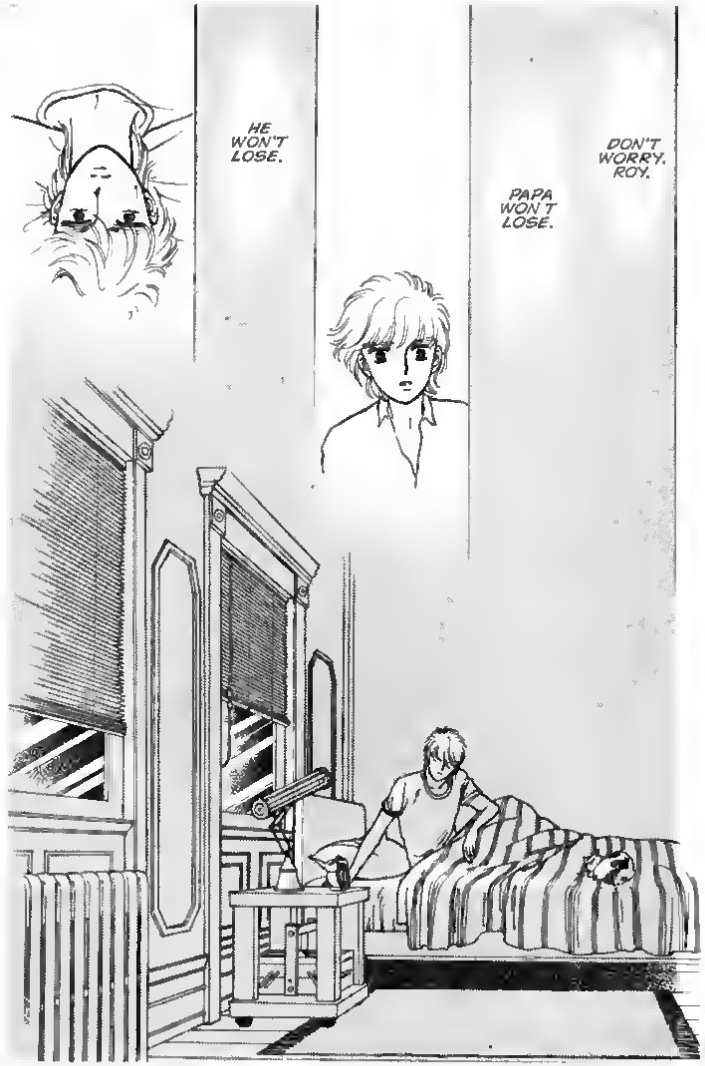

I WAS DRAWN LIKE A LITTLE KID.
WHAT IS THIS?
I CAN'T HELP WORRY-ING ABOUT IT.
I'M THE ONE WHO LET IT HAP-PEN.
SAY, JES-SICA.
HAVE YOU HEARD OF SIVA?
These kids look like Siva and Cipher but they're not related to them. Kidding! (Perhaps Siva and Cipher time traveled to the present?) Please read Cipher 2! See you again!
NOW GET TO BED!
YOU'RE WAY TOO YOUNG FOR THAT!
ARE YOU IMAGIN-ING SOME-THING NAUGH-TY?
SON!
ulp!
GIRL-TALK.
SOME BOY CYCLED ACROSS THE COUNTRY WITH AN ARTIFICIAL LEG.
MARTIN JUST HAS A BIT OF A LIMP.
I HEAR MARTIN'S IN THE CYCLING CLUB.
ARE HIS LEGS OKAY?
I CAN SEE YOU'RE AS LIVELY AS EVER.
AND I PLAN TO STAY THAT WAY.

WHERE IS THIS PLACE?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!
ANISE!
HUH?

SORRY.
AVENUE A?
AVENUE A.

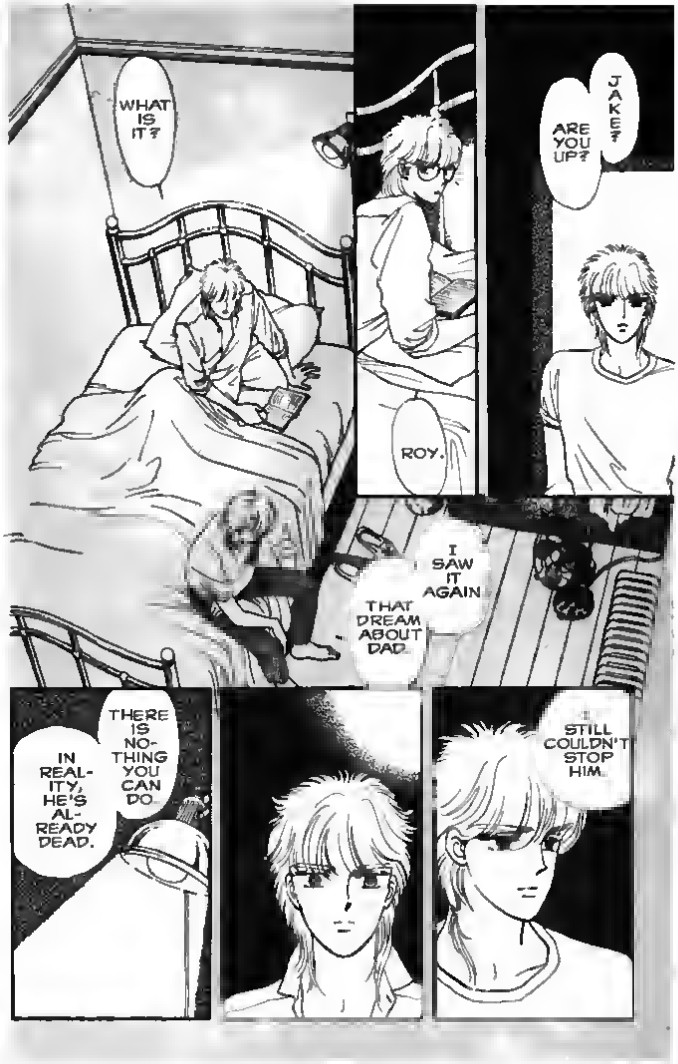

THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD'S NOT AS BAD AS YOU THINK.
YEAH.
.....
.....
HOW DID THIS HAP-PEN?
WHY DID YOU MOVE IN WITH HIM?
IT'S NOT THE NEIGH-BORHOOD I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T BE WORRIED.

ANISE...
YOU DON'T MEAN--
I WAS WON-DERING IF YOU KNEW ANY-THING ABOUT HIM.
JUST CURIOUS.
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ABOUT HIM ALL OF A SUDDEN?
AND HE GOES TO YOUR SCHOOL, DOESN'T HE?
OF COURSE. I WAS EVEN A REPORTER FOR A WHILE.
SHOCK
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN STAYING AT HIS APARTMENT THESE LAST TWO WEEKS, HAVE YOU?
THEN YOU WERE AT SIVA'S PLACE.
IS THIS THE GIRL-TALK YOU--
DID YOU HEAR IT FROM ROB?
YEAH.
SILENCE


HE WON'T LOSE.
PAPA WON'T LOSE.
DON'T WORRY, ROY.

HE MUST NOT WANT TO SHOW ME THAT PART OF HIMSELF.
SORRY, BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU.
HE HAS A MOTHER AND BROTHER.
WHAT DOES HIS FAMILY THINK?
NO FATHER? ARE THEY DIVORCED?
HIS FATHER DIED AN ACCIDENT.
NO.
OH... BUT...
CIPHER AND SIVA NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT IT?

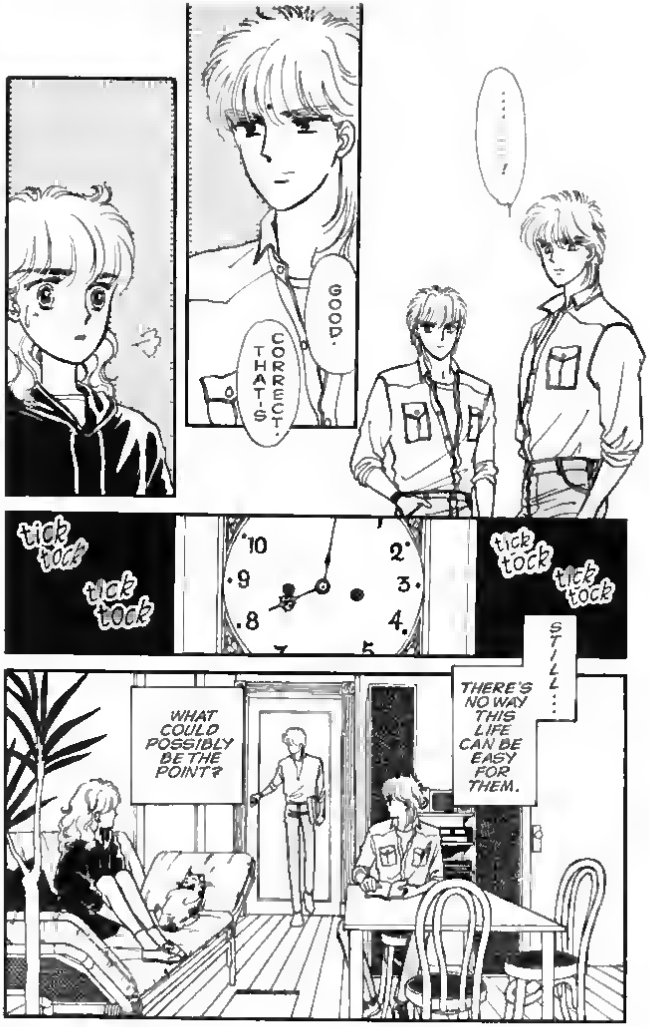
.....
IF SHE CAN TELL US APART, IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU.
AND YOU ALWAYS SAY "RIGHT" WHEN YOU'RE THINKING TOO MUCH
YOU DON'T HAVE A POKER FACE.
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE BET?
IF YOU STILL HAVE THAT DREAM, DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU'RE FEELING INSECURE?
YEAH.. MAYBE THAT'S IT.
I'M SORRY.
HEY, DON'T GET DEPRESSED.
PUFF
DON'T WORRY. SHE WON'T TELL US APART.
YOU WANNA DO SOME COKE? IT'LL CHEER YOU UP.


WHAT IS IT?
JAKE?
ARE YOU UP?
ROY.
I SAW IT AGAIN
THAT DREAM ABOUT DAD.
THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
IN REALITY, HE'S ALREADY DEAD.
I STILL COULDN'T STOP HIM.

THE TWO WEEKS ARE ALMOST UP.
YEAH.
HA HA HA
I'D EVEN SETTLE FOR A COCA-COLA!
YEAH, COKE, YEAH!
THE NEXT DREAM I HAVE WILL BE A COCA-COLA COMMERCIAL.
SLEEP WELL, YOU.
THANKS, JAKE.

THAT'S OBVIOUS!
I WAS GOING TO SAY THAT MYSELF.
IF WE DIDN'T, THEN THE WHOLE BET IS MEANINGLESS.
AND IF I GET IT RIGHT, YOU HAVE TO TELL ME HONESTLY.
OF COURSE.
THEN I HAVE ONE CONDITION.
FOR THE REST OF THE DAY, YOU HAVE TO ACT COMPLETELY NORMAL.
WHY?
AFTER EACH ROUND, WE'LL GO IN THE BATHROOM, AND COME BACK OUT. THEN THE NEW ROUND STARTS.
DURING THE TEST, DON'T TALK TO US.
AFTER THAT, YOU COULD JUST FOLLOW SIVA AROUND UNTIL THE NEXT ROUND.
YOU MIGHT WIN THE FIRST ROUND BY LUCK.

WHICH ONE IS SIVA? WHICH ONE IS CIPHER?
YOU HAVE TO ANSWER IN THIRTY MINUTES.
OKAY?
IF YOU GET IT RIGHT ALL THREE TIMES, YOU WIN.
BUT IF YOU GET IT WRONG EVEN ONCE, YOU LOSE.
DO YOU KNOW A BETTER WAY TO SETTLE IT?
I FEEL LIKE THE ODDS ARE AGAINST ME HERE.
IF YOU GET IT RIGHT, WE'LL ASK AGAIN IN ANOTHER THIRTY MINUTES
AND ANOTHER TIME THIRTY MINUTES AFTER THAT.

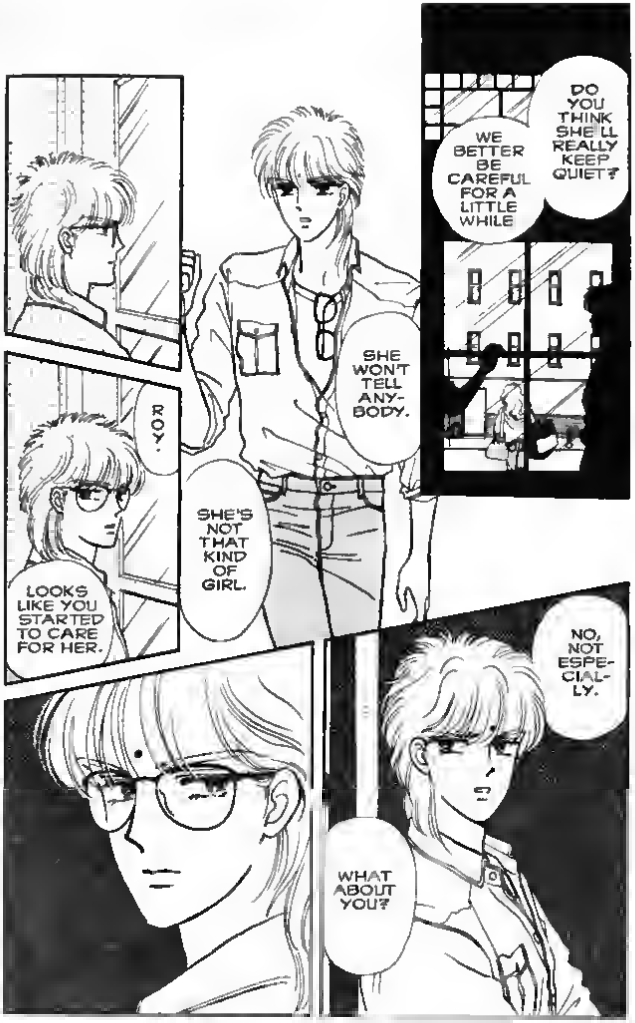

GOOD.
THAT'S CORRECT.
.....!
tick tock
tick tock
tick tock
tick tock
STILL...
THERE'S NO WAY THIS LIFE CAN BE EASY FOR THEM.
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE THE POINT?

START!
WE'LL DO THE FIRST GUESS AT 7:40.
THE SAME SMILE AS ALWAYS.
tick tock
IT'S THE SAME FACE, EITHER WAY.
REALLY? I'LL WATCH.
I WAS THE ONE WHO APPEARED IN TODAY'S EPISODE.
HA HA HA HA
tick tock
CIPHER'S ON THE RIGHT.
ISN'T HE?

tick tock
tick tock
ANISE?
ANISE?
IT'S THE LAST TIME.
WHICH ONE AM I?
UH...

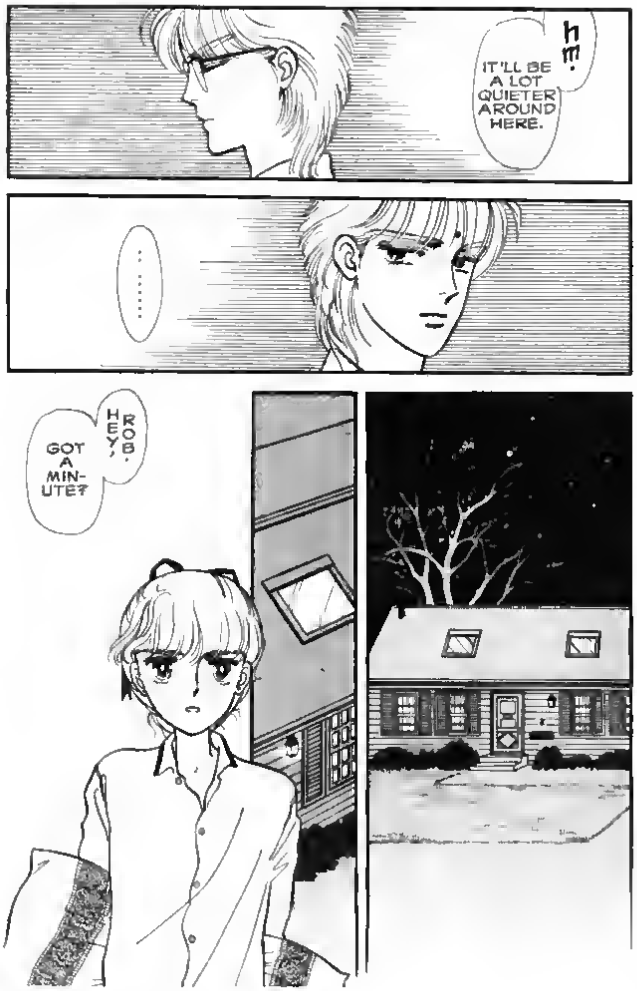
.....
IS CIPHER ON THE LEFT?
"IF YOU WIN, WE'LL TELL YOU."
"YOU CAN TELL WHOEVER YOU WANT."
OF COURSE...
...IF I WIN, I FIND OUT THE REASON.

WRONG.
I'M CIPHER.
SI...
SIVA!
GULP!


DO YOU THINK SHE'LL REALLY KEEP QUIET?
WE BETTER BE CAREFUL FOR A LITTLE WHILE
SHE WON'T TELL ANY-BODY.
ROY.
SHE'S NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL.
LOOKS LIKE YOU STARTED TO CARE FOR HER.
NO, NOT ESPE-CIAL-LY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

YOU PROM-ISED.
I KNOW.
YES.
AND NO MORE INVES-TIGA-TING.
YOU CAN'T TELL ANY-ONE ABOUT US.
SURE.
CAN WE STILL BE FRIENDS.
IS IT OKAY IF I DROP BY SOME-TIMES?
SLAM
GOOD-BYE.
THANKS FOR THESE TWO WEEKS.

ALL RIGHT
SO?
WELL...
...BY ACCIDENT I FOUND OUT SOMEBODY'S IMPORTANT SECRET.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
WHAT IS IT?
SURE, HONEY.
AFTER A GENIUS...
HE'S FAMOUS.
PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD KNOW HIM
IN ORDER TO KEEP IT SECRET, HE LIES TO EVERYBODY ELSE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY HE KEEPS THIS SECRET.
I WANT TO FIND OUT, BUT... I DON'T KNOW...
AH. I SEE


hm.
IT'LL BE A LOT QUIETER AROUND HERE.
.....
HEY, ROB. GOT A MINUTE?

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S A GOOD PERSON, BUT HE SOUNDS ALL RIGHT.
FRIENDS WITH A GUY WHO LIES.
WOW.

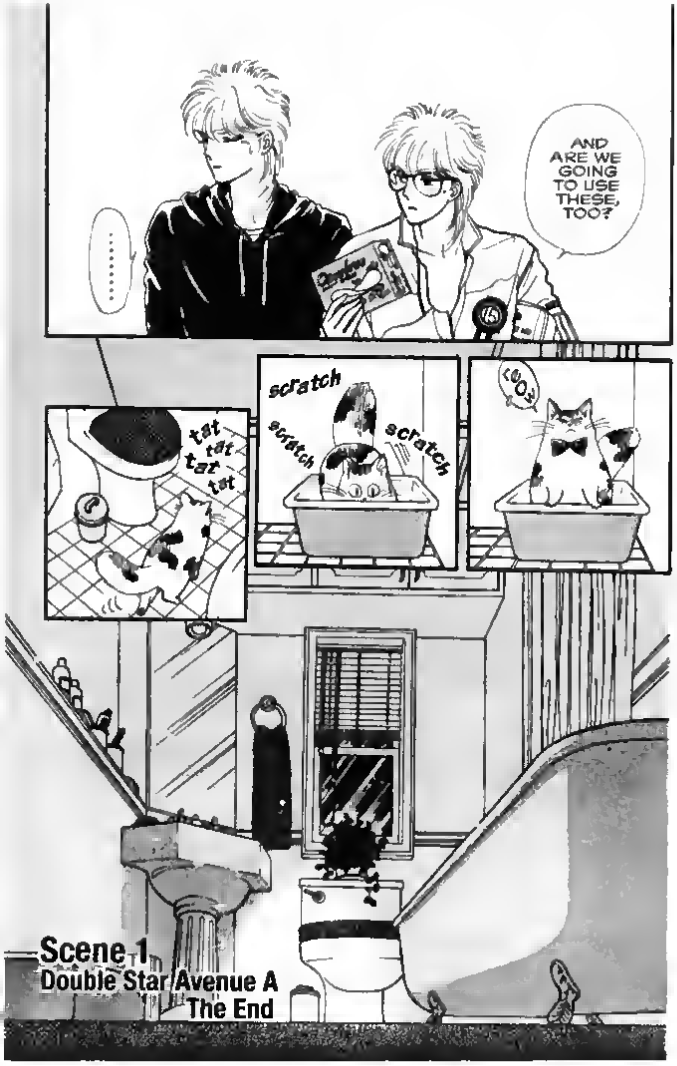
AM I DOING THE RIGHT THING?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DAD?

...YOU'LL HAVE NO REGRETS, FOR BETTER OR WORSE.
IF YOU THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT WHAT TO DO...

drop
I LIED ABOUT SOMETHING, TOO.
I LET HIM THINK HE FOOLED ME, TOO.
BUT, ROB!
IT'S WRONG TO FORCE HIM TO TELL ME, ISN'T IT?
I THINK I SHOULD JUST WAIT UNTIL HE WANTS TO TELL ME HIMSELF.
'CAUSE... THAT'S
...I WANT TO BE HIS FRIEND.

SIVA'S PROBABLY THE MAIN HOUSE-KEEPER.
SASASA
.....
SIGH

CIPHER ALWAYS SHOWS HIS EMOTIONS CLEARLY.
I WASN'T COMPLETELY SURE BUT THE LAST TIME, I THOUGHT IT WAS CIPHER.
YET STILL, HE'S ALWAYS STRONG, ALWAYS RELAXED, ALWAYS THREATENING.
SIVA ALWAYS FOLLOWS HIM AND SUPPORTS HIM.


AND ARE WE GOING TO USE THESE, TOO?
tat tat tat tat
scratch
scratch
scratch
(003)
Scene 1
Double Star Avenue A
The End

BUT WHY? WHAT'RE GOING TO USE IT FOR?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
PAINTING THAT CANISTER
MAYBE YOU SHOULD PUT A HOLE IN THE LID.
YEAH, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
CAT FOOD
I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD USE THEM..
YEAH.
BY THE WAY...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BOUGHT THE PAIN-RELIEVERS, RIGHT?
SINCE IT'S YOU, I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA.
SO CAN YOU GUESS WHAT I'M MAKING?

cmx

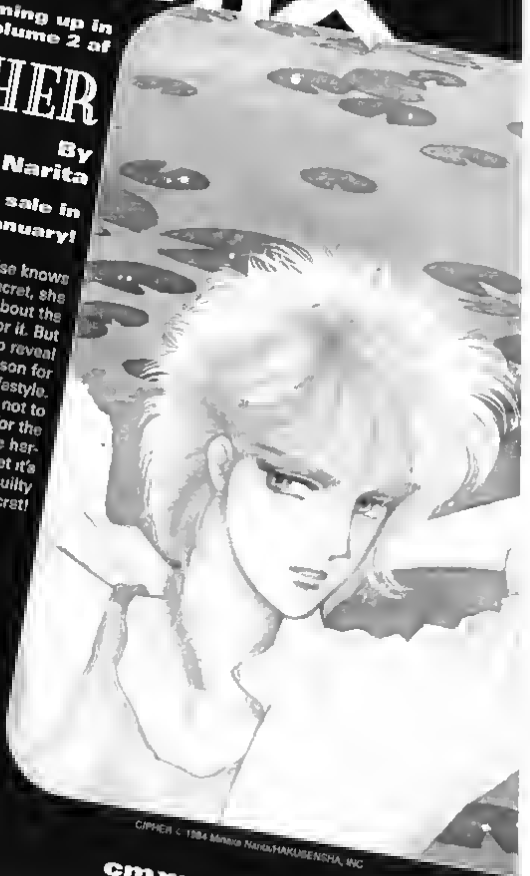
Coming up in volume 2 of

CIPHER

By Minako Narita

On sale in January!

Now that Anise knows the twins' secret, she wonders about the motivations for it. But they have yet to reveal to her the reason for this bizarre lifestyle. She decides not to press them for the answer, since she herself knows what it's like to have a guilty secret!



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TEEN
MILD PROFANITY

CIPHER

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